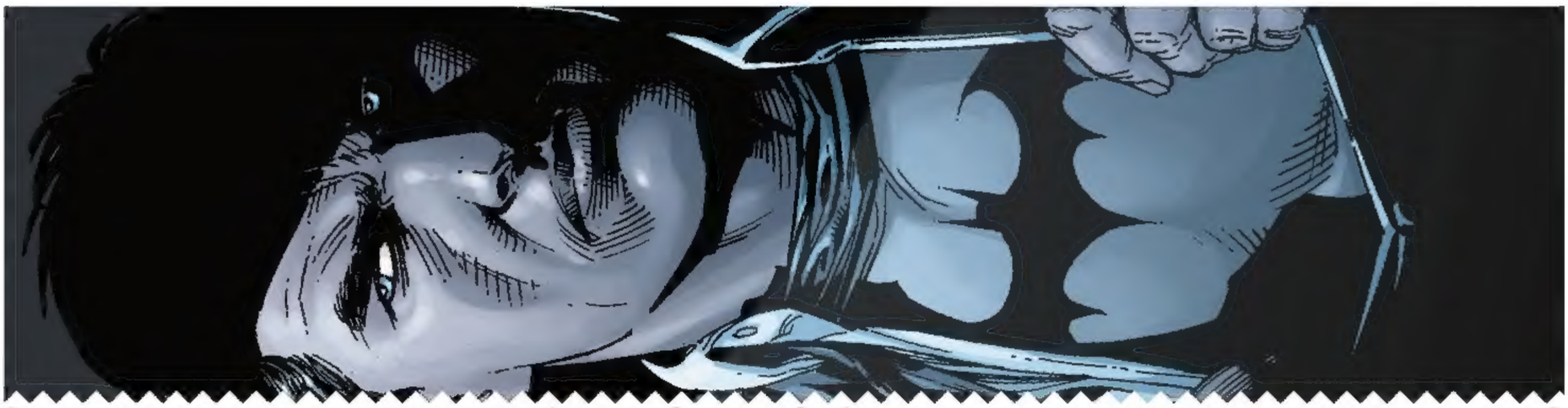
GEOFF JOHNS • GARY FRANK

JON SIBAL • BRAD ANDERSON

BATMAN EARTH ONE COMPLETE COLLECTION

DC



BATMAN EARTH ONE

COMPLETE COLLECTION

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BATMAN: EARTH ONE COMPLETE COLLECTION
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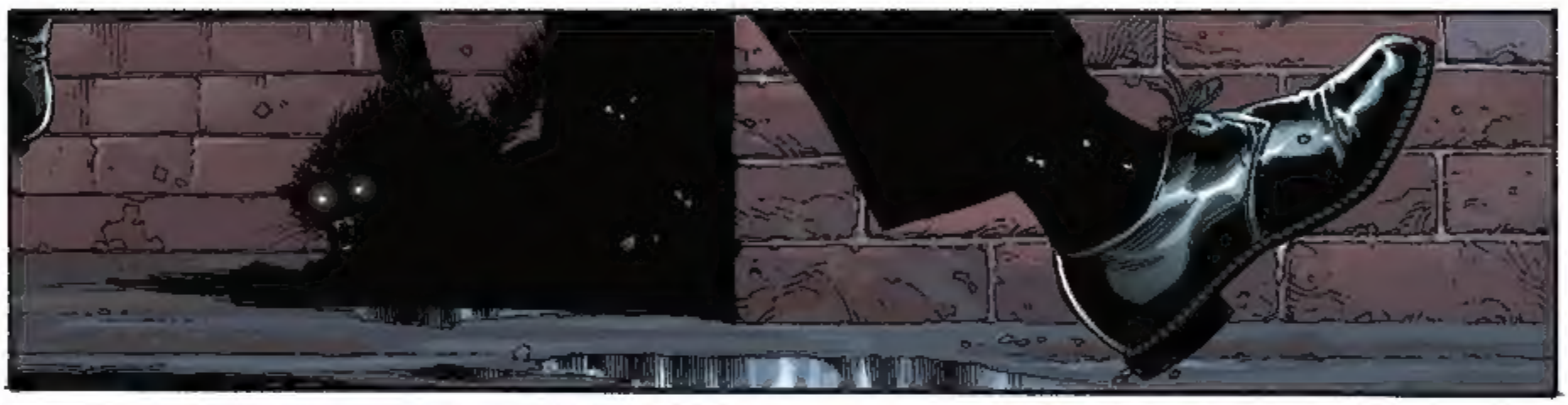
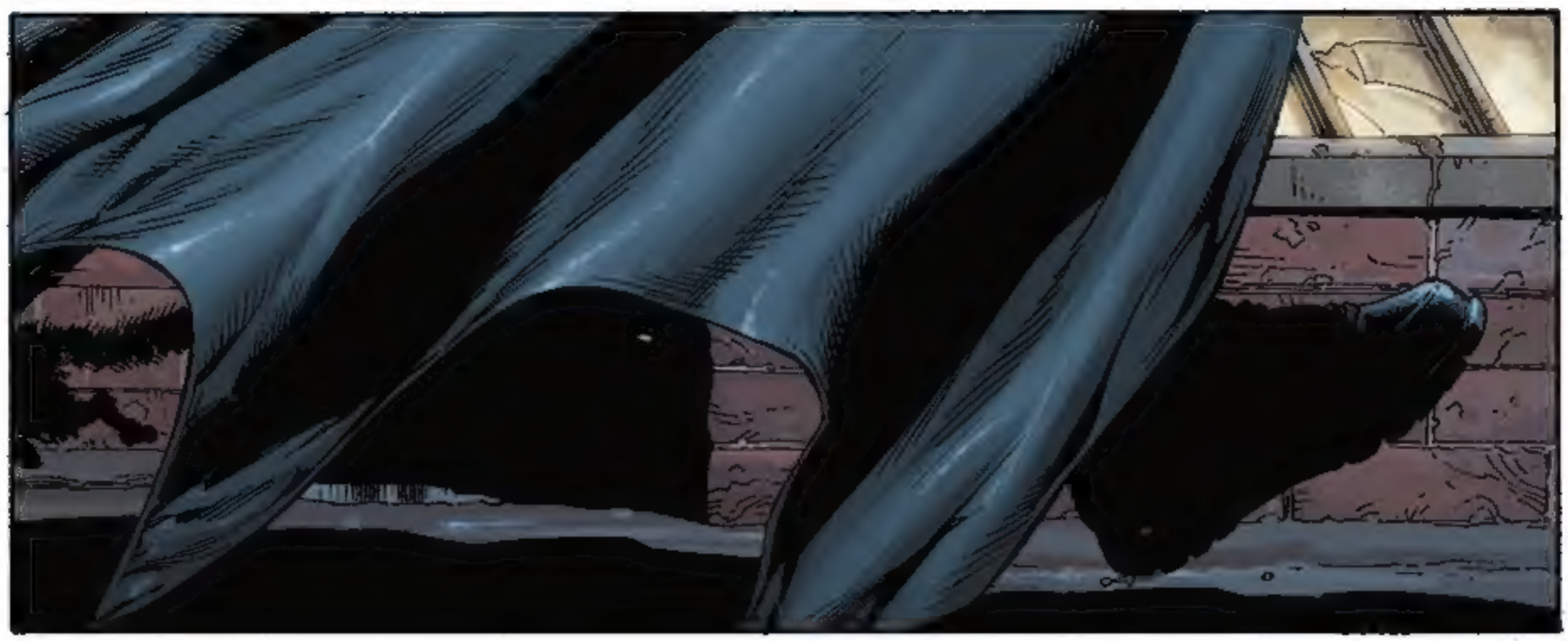
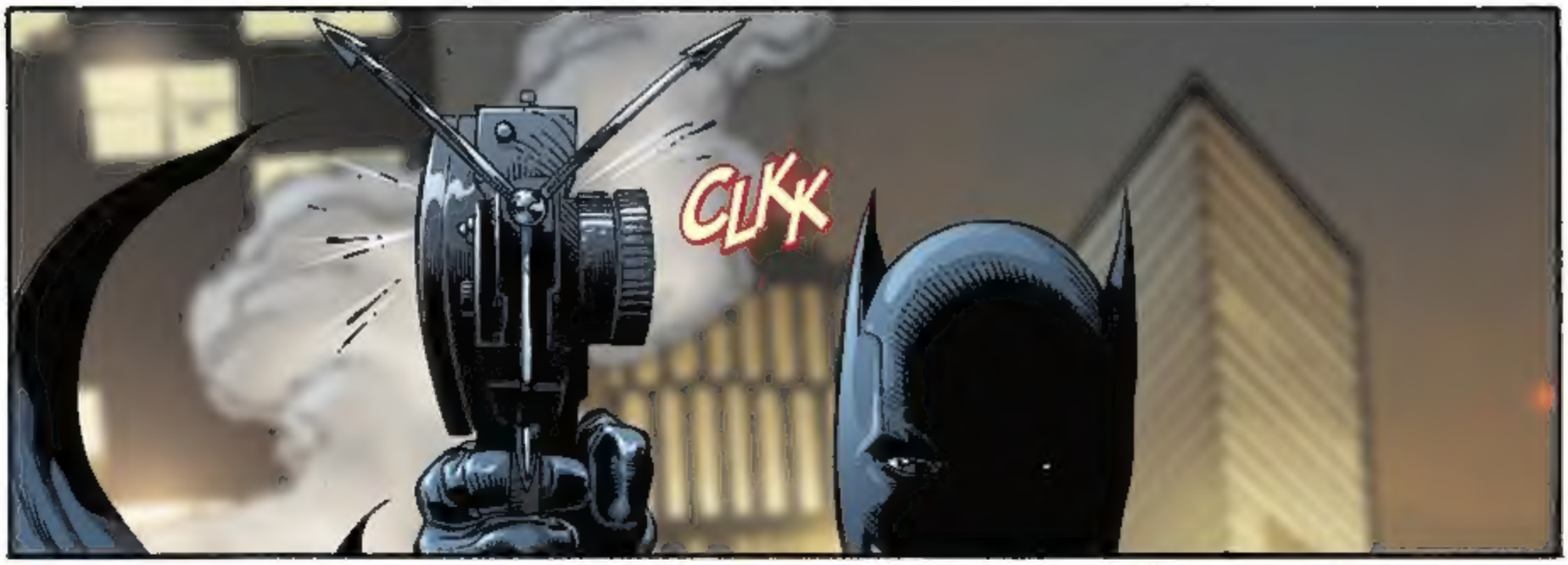
NOW.



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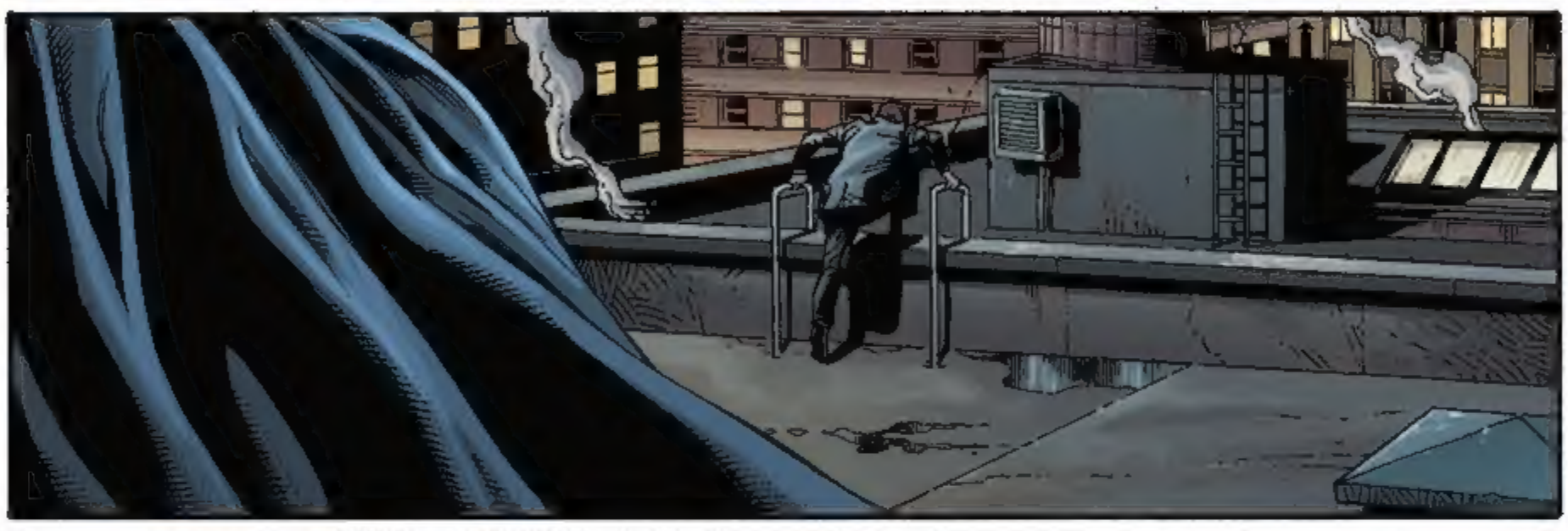

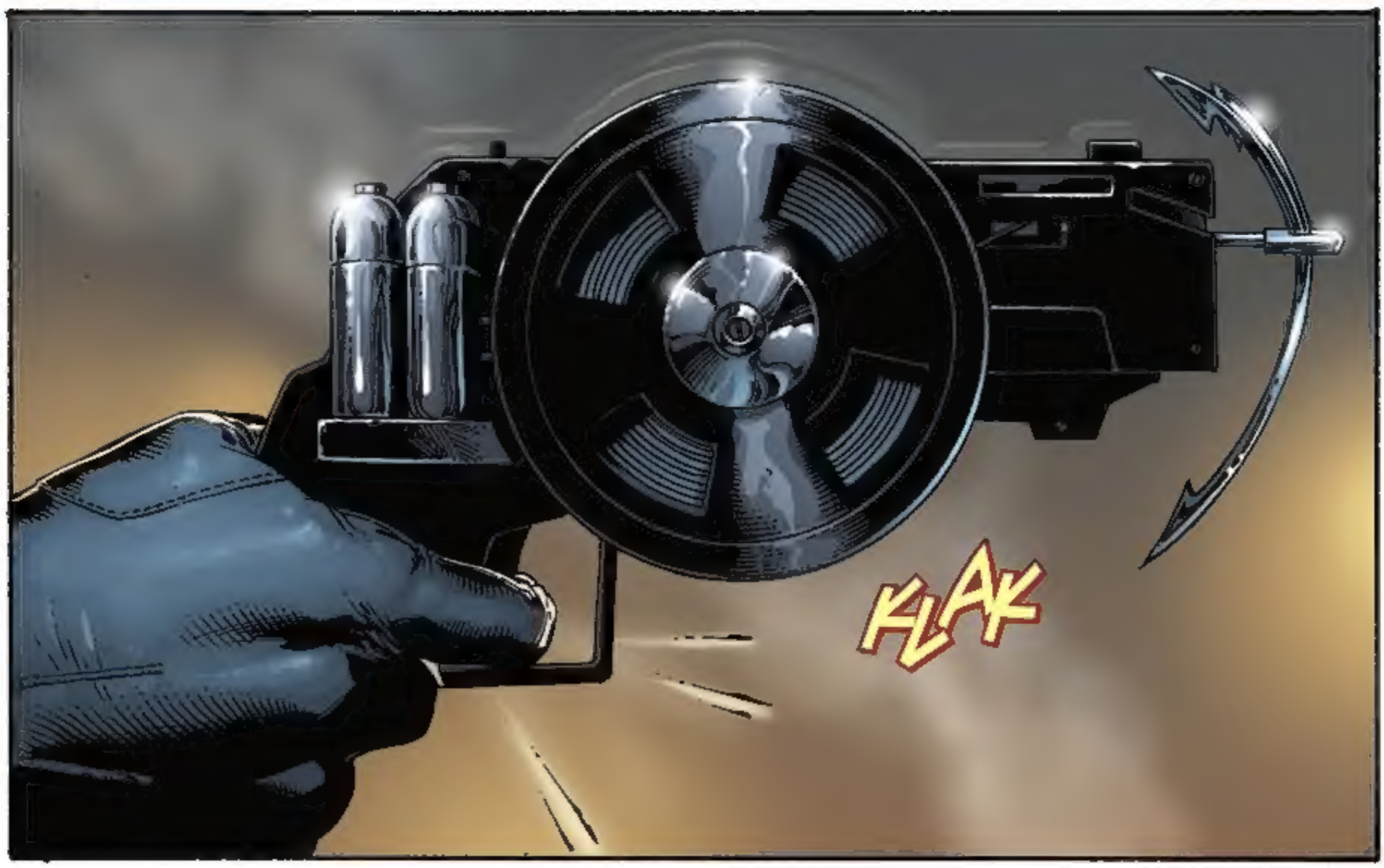
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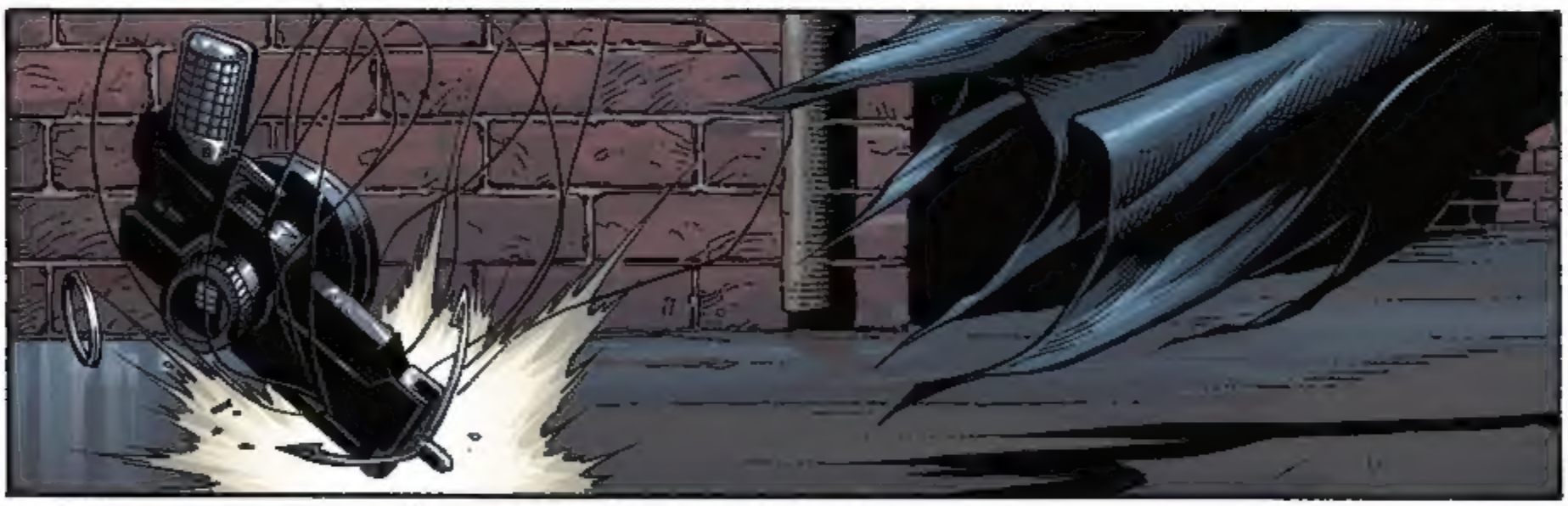
VRRRANNGG



KEEEET
RANK

OOFF!

BAMM

CHONKF

KBANG

OW.

HELP!

LET'S GO!

PLEASE HELP ME!

PRIV

DON'T...

yo!
DON'T HURT ME.
I'M JUST TRYING TO KEEP WARM.
FIGHT TH
YOU'LL NEVER WALK ALONE
JACOB WEAVE

THEN.

YOU NEED SOME HELP GETTIN' OUT, PAL?

TAXI

106

NO.

TINK

Tt.

THOMAS WAYNE

★FOR★

MAYOR

AH! GOOD EVENING, MR. PENNYWORTH.

HAVE WE MET?

MR. WAYNE HAS BEEN EXPECT NG YOU, SIR. MAY I TAKE YOUR BAG?

I GOT T.

ALFRED!

AYNE FOR

ALFRED. I CAN'T BELIEVE IT. YOU ACTUALLY CAME.

STANLEY, WHY DON'T YOU TAKE HIS BAG TO THE GUEST QUARTERS. THE ONE OVERLOOKING THE GARDENS.

YES, MR. WAYNE.

I GUESS MEDICAL TECH IS BIG BUSINESS. QU TE THE PLACE YOU'VE BUILT, TOMMY.

ACTUALLY, MARTHA S GREAT-GRANDFATHER BU LT IT.

I READ UP ON YOUR OPPONENT. SOUNDS LIKE A QUESTIONABLE CHARACTER.

HE CONTROLS THE UNIONS AND HALF THE JUDGES IN CITY HALL, BUT HE'S NOT GOOD FOR GOTHAM.

HEAR YOU'RE GIVING HIM A SHOEING ANYWAY. LOOKS LIKE YOUR STAFF IS CELEBRATING.

A LITTLE PREMATURELY. THE ELECTION ISN'T FOR A FEW MORE DAYS.

THE POLLS SAY YOU'RE A *LOCK*, MR. WAYNE.

SO LET'S ENJOY THE MOMENT WHILE WE CAN.

ONCE YOU'RE ELECTED, THE HONEYMOON WITH THE GOTHAM CITY PRESS WON'T LAST VERY LONG.

THOMAS WAYNE GOTHAM'S KNIGHT

ALFRED, I'D LIKE YOU TO MEET MY CAMPAIGN MANAGER AND WIFE--

AND ADVOCATE FOR THE RIGHTS OF THE MENTALLY ILL. SHE'S AS FAMOUS AS YOU, TOMMY.

AFTER ALL THESE YEARS I FINALLY GET TO MEET THE MAN WHO *SAVED* MY HUSBAND'S LIFE. WE OWE YOU SO MUCH, ALFRED.

YOUR HUSBAND'S THE ONE WHO HELPED ME WALK AGAIN. I OWE HIM, MRS. WAYNE.

PLEASE. IT'S MARTHA. OH, YOU HAVE TO MEET BRUCE.

BRUCE?!

BRUCE, WHERE ARE YOU?

YOU HAVE A LOT TO LOSE, DON'T YOU?

THEY'RE FROM EVERYWHERE. IT COMES WITH THE TERRITORY.

WHAT? ALFRED--

DO YOU THINK THE DEATH THREATS ARE FROM YOUR POLITICAL OPPONENT?

YOU CALLED ME BECAUSE YOU WANTED SOMEONE ON SECURITY YOU COULD TRUST.

THAT MEANS YOU'RE HAVING CONCERNS ABOUT THE PEOPLE *CLOSEST* TO YOU. THE PEOPLE WHO ARE IN THIS HOUSE RIGHT NOW.

AS SOON AS I'M OFFICIALLY ELECTED, WE'LL GET TO WORK.

BUT NOT TONIGHT. TONIGHT I'M JUST A FATHER.

COME ON, DAD!

BRUCE, NO RUNNING!

BUT WE'RE GOING TO BE LATE!

LATE?

I PROMISED BRUCE WE'D TAKE HIM TO A MOVIE. HE'S BEEN DYING TO SEE IT.

WHO'S GOING WITH YOU?

BRUCE, YOUR JACKET!

YOU SHOULDN'T BE GOING OUT *RIGHT NOW.*

WE GO OUT EVERY WEEK AS A FAMILY. THAT'S NOT GOING TO CHANGE.

IT HAS TO.

NO, IT DOESN'T.

I'LL COME WITH YOU.

AFTER THE ELECTION, ALFRED, I APPRECIATE THE CONCERN, BUT I WON'T GIVE UP OUR NIGHTS OUT.

I WANT BRUCE TO HAVE A NORMAL LIFE.

A NORMAL LIFE? IN THIS MANSION? WITH BUTLERS, MAIDS AND COOKS?

THIS *ISN'T* NORMAL, TOMMY. YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT NORMAL IS. BEING A WAYNE, YOU NEVER HAVE.

LIFE'S UGLY OUTSIDE THIS PALACE OF YOURS.

I KNOW HOW *UGLY* LIFE CAN BE.

AFTER EVERYTHING WE DID IN THE DESERT, I'LL *NEVER* FORGET THAT.

THEY'RE WAITING FOR ME.

TOMMY, I...

"WE'VE GOT A FRONT ROW SEAT!"

FIRST ROW!

BRUCE, IT'S A LITTLE CLOSE.

COME ON, THOMAS. IT'LL BE FUN.

THE LIGHTS?

WHAT HAPPENED?

I'M SORRY, FOLKS.

THE POWER TO THE BUILDING'S OUT. CAN EVERYONE PLEASE HEAD TO THE ***FRONT*** EXIT?

THOMAS?

IT'S OKAY. LET'S JUST GET BACK TO THE CAR, MARTHA.

MAYBE THEY'LL FIX IT.

COME ON, BRUCE.

THERE'S ANOTHER THEATRE A FEW BLOCKS AWAY. WE CAN STILL SEE IT.

BRUCE, WE'LL COME BACK THIS WEEKEND.

I WANT TO SEE IT ***TONIGHT!***

EXIT

BRUCE!

HEY.

ZOR

WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GO N', KD.

I DON'T HAVE TO DO *ANYTHING* YOU SAY.

MY PARENTS ARE THE *RICHEST* PEOPLE N GOTHAM CITY.

YOU'RE THE WAYNE KID.

BRUCE?!

BRUCE?!

MOM? DAD?

SHUT UP.

DON'T *HURT* HIM. WE'LL GIVE YOU WHATEVER YOU WANT.

WALLET. JEWELRY.

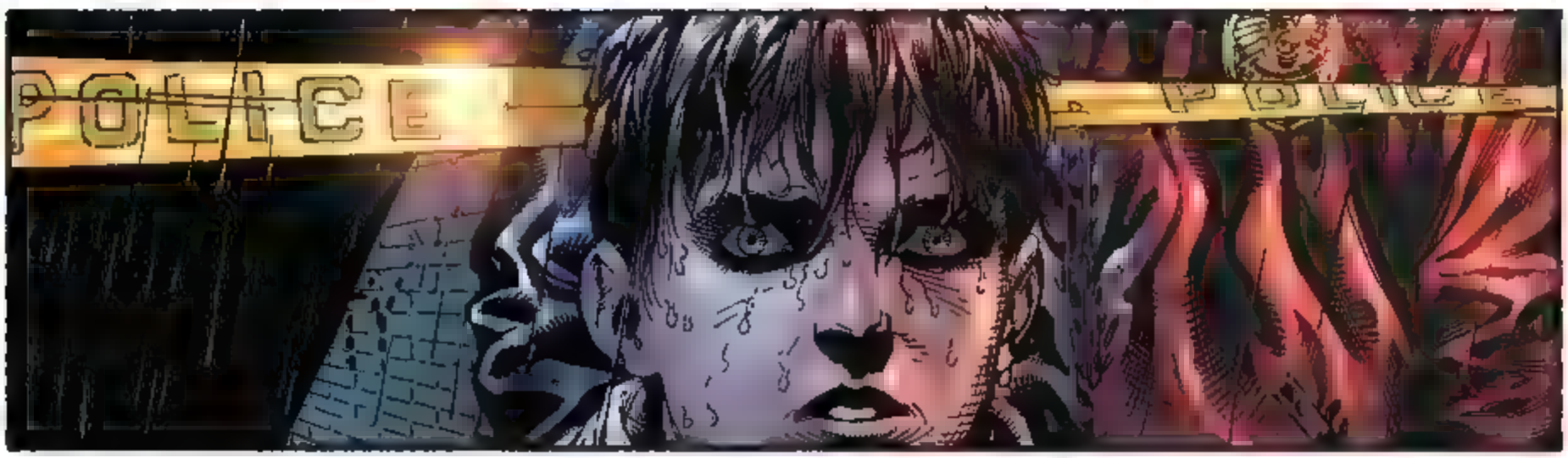
NOW.

I SAID NOW!

BLAM! BLAM!

CHRIST, WEAVER, IT'S THE WAYNES.

DID THE KID SEE WHAT HAPPENED?


POLICE
POLICE

CAPTAIN?

THIS IS *ALFRED PENNYWORTH.*

I KNOW THERE WERE THREATS MADE. I WANT A *LIST.* I CAN *HELP.*

WE KNOW ABOUT YOUR BACKGROUND IN THE ROYAL MARINES AND THE SECURITY FIRM YOU WORKED FOR IN SEOUL, BUT OBVIOUSLY WE'RE HANDLING THIS INVESTIGATION.

WE NEED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT SOMETHING *ELSE.*

WHAT?

THEIR *SON, BRUCE.*

DID YOU KNOW THE WAYNES NAMED *YOU* HIS LEGAL GUARDIAN IN CASE ANYTHING HAPPENED TO THEM?

LEGAL GUARDIAN?

I'M NOT A PARENT.

ACCORDING TO THIS, YOU HAVE A DAUGHTER.

SHE LIVES WITH HER MOTHER.

IN SEOUL?

THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT WHEN I SAID I'M NOT A PARENT. I MEANT I'M NOT INTERESTED IN BE NG ANYONE'S GUARDIAN.

I JUST WANT TO KNOW WHO KILLED THE WAYNES.

THAT'S THE POLICE'S JOB, MR. PENNYWORTH. *MY* JOB IS TO SORT OUT WHAT HAPPENS TO THIS POOR BOY.

HE WON'T TALK TO ANYONE. HE HASN'T EATEN ANYTHING.

THERE HAS TO BE SOMEONE ELSE WHO CAN WATCH OVER HIM.

THOMAS AND MARTHA WERE THE LAST OF THE R RESPECTIVE FAMILIES. THE LAST OF THE WAYNES AND THE ARKHAMS.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I SAY "NO"?

HE GOES TO CHILD SERVICES.

AND INTO FOSTER CARE.

LOOK... BRUCE...

YOU HAVE TO EAT SOMETHING.

WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?

I'M YOUR BUTLER.

SO THIS IS YOUR *LIFE* NOW?

YOU MAY HAVE GIVEN UP, BUT I ***WON'T.***

DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY, DETECTIVE GORDON?

WHAT'S T MATTER IF OUR DAUGHTER'S BEEN MISSING FOR *LESS* THAN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS? SHE'S *FIFTEEN!*

HER WINDOW WAS OPENED FROM THE OUTS DE. THERE WERE *BIRTHDAY CANDLES* ON HER P LLOW!

THE LAB ALREADY HAS THE CANDLES.

WE'LL SEE IF WE CAN GET ANY PRINTS AS SOON AS WE GET A CHANCE.

WHO'S *NEXT?!* *NEXT!!*

HEY, DAD!

BUSY NIGHT, *huh?*

BARBARA?

I TOLD YOU NOT TO COME TO THE STATION AFTER DARK. AND IT'S A SCHOOL NIGHT--

YOU FORGOT DINNER.

I WASN'T HUNGRY.

IT'S LASAGNA.

MOM'S REC.PE.

I'LL DRIVE YOU HOME.

GORDON!

CAPTAIN WANTS TO SEE YOU.

PRONTO.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, DAD. I'LL TAKE THE BUS.

NO, YOU WON'T.

I CAN HANDLE MYSELF. I GREW UP IN GOTHAM CITY.

THIS IS THE *LAST* TIME YOU COME HERE. UNDERSTAND?

SURE, DAD.

YOU WANTED TO SEE ME, CAPTAIN?

YEAH.

I WANT YOU TO MEET YOUR NEW PARTNER.

HIM?

ME.

MEET *HARVEY BULLOCK.*

YOU KNOW THE NAME, I'M SURE. YOU PROBABLY KNOW THE FACE TOO.

NO.

HE HOSTED THAT TV SHOW... *um...*

HOLLYWOOD DETECTIVES.

ALL *FIVE* SEASONS.

I DON'T WATCH MUCH TELEVISION.

I'LL GET YOU A COPY ON *BLU-RAY.*

YOU'LL SEE A BIOGRAPHY OF YOURS TRULY IN THE *BEHIND-THE-SCENES*, BUT HERE ARE THE *BULLETPOINTS:*

BORN AND RAISED IN LOS ANGELES. SPENT NINE YEARS WORKING HOMICIDE FOR HOLLYWOOD P.D. PALM TREES. BEACHES. GIRLS.

MORE GIRLS.

Hm.

WEST COAST IS A BEAUTIFUL PLACE...

BUT I'M BEGINNING TO SEE *GOTHAM* HAS ITS BEAUTY *TOO.*

HI, YOURSELF, SWEETHEART.

WHO IN THEIR RIGHT MIND TRANSFERS TO GOTHAM?

I NEEDED A NEW CHALLENGE. GOTHAM IS THE MOST DANGEROUS CITY IN AMERICA. EVERY CRIME IN GOTHAM IS A POTENTIAL *HEADLINE.*

I LIKE HEADLINES.

IN FACT, I'M GOING TO TACKLE *ONE* CASE IN PARTICULAR THAT WENT COLD *YEARS* AGO.

THE MURDERS OF THOMAS AND MARTHA WAYNE.

SOLVE *THAT* DIAMOND IN THE ROUGH?

IT'S OUT OF *TELEVISION* AND INTO *FILM.*

WAYNE, THOMAS

ARKHAM-WAYNE, MARTHA

THEN.

SKREE

BRUCE?

YOU NEED TO SLEEP. THOUGHT TEA MIGHT...

SKREE

SKREE
SKREE
SKREE
SKREE
SKREE
SKREE
SKREE

"BRUCE."

FRAGILE

"BRUCE."

WHY A *BAT?*

BECAUSE OF THE DAY YOU OPENED THE MAUSOLEUM? YOU THINK PEOPLE WILL BE AS SCARED AS YOU WERE?

THE KIND OF PEOPLE YOU'RE HUNTING *DON'T* GET SCARED.

EVERYONE GETS SCARED, ALFRED.

"THERE'RE TWO SIDES TO EVERYTHING, BRUCE!"

GOTHAM CITY HAS THE WAYNES AND THE ARKHAMS.

NO ONE LIVES THERE ANYMORE, BUT IT USED TO BE THE MOST AMAZING HOUSE N THE WHOLE CITY! THEY SAY IT'S L'KE A ***MAZE!*** JUST LIKE GOTHAM!

LET'S GO LOOK INSIDE AND SEE IF WE CAN F.ND OUR WAY OUT!

IT'LL BE FUN!

WE SHOULDN'T, JESSICA.

BUT YOU ***OWN*** IT, DON'T YOU? SO WHY NOT?

BECAUSE HE'LL GO CRAZY.

JUST LIKE EVERY ARKHAM D.D.

WHY DON'T YOU TELL MY SISTER WHY THAT HOUSE IS *EMPTY*, WAYNE?

LEAVE US ALONE, DENT.

HARVEY, GO HOME.

BRUCE'S GRANDMOTHER KILLED HIS GRANDFATHER WITH A SLEDGEHAMMER AND THEN SHE JUMPED OFF THE ROOF!

SHE JUMPED FROM WAY UP THERE!

EVERYONE KNOWS THE ARKHAMS WERE CRAZY. ONE DAY YOU'LL BE CRAZY TOO, BRUCE.

JUST LIKE YOUR MOM WAS.

STOP IT!

"YOU ASKED ME TO TEACH YOU HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF. I DO."

I DO *MORE* THAN THAT FOR YOU.

BUT NOW I'M *LEAVING.*

I NEVER ASKED YOU TO STAY, ALFRED.

AND I DIDN'T TEACH YOU HOW TO FIGHT SO YOU COULD GO ON SOME *INSANE* CRUSADE.

I'M NOT *CRAZY.*

THE MAYOR HAD MY PARENTS KILLED.

CHRIST, BRUCE, PEOPLE HAVE *ALL* KINDS OF THEORIES, INCLUDING POINTING THEIR FINGER AT THE MAYOR.

BECAUSE MY FATHER WAS GOING TO BE MAYOR. INSTEAD HE WAS SHOT TO DEATH IN AN ALLEY WITH MY MOTHER.

I KNOW BLOODY WELL WHAT HAPPENED.

BUT YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT JACOB WEAVER.

WHO?

THE MAN I WAS CHASING TONIGHT. HE USED TO BE A COP. HE WAS ONE OF THE FIRST ONES ON THE SCENE OF MY PARENTS' MURDER. HE QUIT THE FORCE AND STARTED WORKING FOR THE MAYOR TWO WEEKS AFTER THEY WERE BURIED.

LAST WEEK, I SAW A PHOTO OF HIM WITH MY FATHER'S LIGHTER.

I GAVE IT TO HIM THE CHRISTMAS BEFORE HE DIED.

I WANT TO ASK WEAVER WHY HE HAS IT. I WANT TO KNOW EVERYTHING *HE* KNOWS ABOUT THAT NIGHT.

WHEN THE MAYOR GOES DOWN AND I FIND HIS GUNMAN, WE CAN BOTH HAVE CLOSURE. WE CAN BOTH MOVE ON.

WE CAN BOTH HAVE A ***NORMAL*** LIFE.

FIRST THINGS FIRST. YOU NEED A ***GUN.***

NO. NO GUNS.

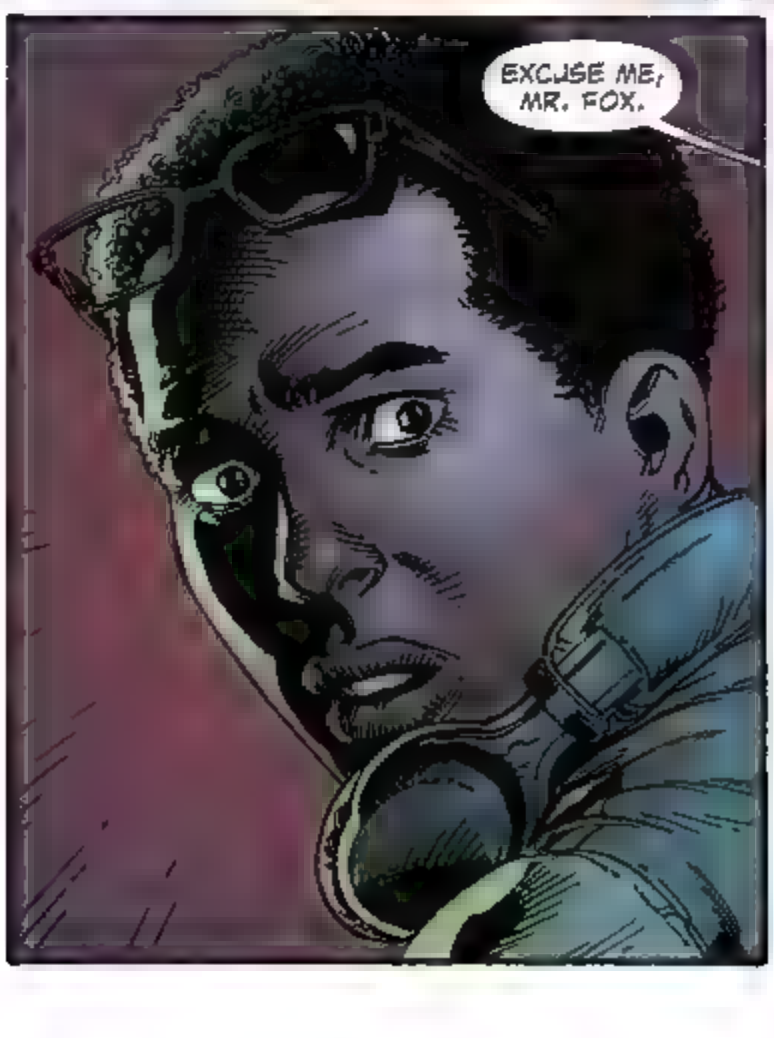
NO GUNS? BRUCE, YOU DO THIS, YOU DO THIS ***PROPERLY.***

YOU CAN'T FIGHT A CORRUPT MAYOR AND HIS GOONS WITH A ***TANGLED SPOOL*** OF ***WIRE.*** AND YOU CAN'T RELY ON ***GADGETS*** THAT DON'T WORK.

TAP

THEN I'LL FIND SOMEONE WHO CAN ***MAKE*** THEM WORK.

THE FOX HOLE


EXCUSE ME, MR. FOX.

YOU... YOU'RE BRUCE WAYNE.

YES.

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR THE WAYNE BOARDROOM? IT'S, *uh*, IT'S ON THE TOP FLOOR.

THIS IS DESIGN AND ENGINEERING.

I KNOW.

DID I DO SOMETHING WRONG? AM I FIRED? I SWEAR I DIDN'T THINK THE SPOT WAS ***RESERVED***. YOU HAVEN'T EVER PARKED THERE, SO I THOUGHT--

I NEED YOU TO DO SOMETHING FOR ME.

YOU WERE THE LEAD DESIGNER ON THE NEUROPROSTHETICS PROCESSOR.

I WAS, BUT DOCTOR HABERMAN TOOK THAT OVER. IT ULTIMATELY DIDN'T INTEGRATE WITH THE NERVOUS SYSTEM. IT WAS SCRAPPED.

AND HE SCRAPPED YOU TOO AFTER YOU BROKE HIS NOSE.

MY...PASSION GOT THE BETTER OF ME. AXONS MYELINATION IS POSSIBLE. PERMANENT ARTIFICIAL LIMBS ARE THE FUTURE. I BELIEVE THAT EVEN IF HE DOESN'T.

IF YOU HELP ME, I'LL SEE THAT YOU'RE PUT BACK ON THE PROJECT. AND THAT YOUR FIVE-YEAR-OLD NIECE IS THE FIRST TO RECEIVE ONE. SHE LOST HER ARM IN AN ACCIDENT, DIDN'T SHE?

WHAT ***EXACTLY*** DO YOU WANT ME TO ***DO***, MR. WAYNE?

I WANT YOU TO KEEP THIS BETWEEN US.

HERE.

WHAT IS IT?

I USE IT FOR MOUNTAIN CLIMBING.

CAN YOU FIX IT?

MR. WAYNE, WE WORK IN *MEDICAL* TECHNOLOGY--

CAN YOU FIX IT?

WELL, YES, BUT...MOUNTAIN CLIMBING?

MR. WAYNE?

MR. WAYNE, THERE'RE NO MOUNTAINS TO CLIMB IN GOTHAM CITY!

SURE THERE ARE.

SO WHERE ARE THE NICE PARTS OF GOTHAM, GORDO?

THIS *IS* THE NICE PART, BULLOCK.

WE SHOT AN EPISODE OF HOLLYWOOD DETECTIVES IN GOTHAM. ON THE BACK LOT, I MEAN. I THOUGHT IT WAS ACCURATE, BUT IT WASN'T THIS...DIRTY.

WELL, MAYBE THE ***WOMEN*** WERE. DID YOU SEE THAT REDHEAD WAVING AT ME?

HEY. DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE ***JEALOUS?***

WHOA.

YOU SEE THAT?

LOOKS LIKE WE GOT OUR FIRST BIT OF ACTION.

WE CAN'T STOP. WE'RE *LATE.*

LATE TO WHAT?

WE'VE GOT SECURITY DETAIL AT THE MAYOR'S PARTY TONIGHT.

THERE'S A CRIME .N PROGRESS.

IT'S NOT OUR BUSINESS, BULLOCK.

NOT OUR *BUSINESS?!*

STOP! STOP THE DAMN CAR!

BULLOCK!

YOU *PAY* OR YOU GET *HURT!*

HEY!

EEERTT

GOTHAM CITY P.D.

PUT YOUR HANDS ,N THE AIR!

STUP D MOVE.

YEP.

=NNFFF!=

REAL STUP D, ENSTE N.

WHERE ARE *YOU* GOING?! I NEED A STATEMENT!

I JUST SAVED YOUR ASS!

BULLOCK!

HELP ME CUFF THIS MEATHEAD.

LET HIM GO.

WHAT--?

I SAID LET HIM GO!

WHAT IS IT?

IS THIS ASSHOLE UNDERCOVER? AN INFORMANT?

HAHAHA HAHA!

I'M SORRY, AXE. HE'S NEW TO GOTHAM.

YOU BETTER TEACH HIM THE RULES QUICK, GORDON.

BEFORE *ANOTHER* ACCIDENT HAPPENS.

WHAT THAT PUNK OWED ME IS COM N' FROM YOU, GORDON.

AND YOU BETTER LEARN THE *RULES* OF GOTHAM, NEW GUY.

OR WE'LL SEE WHO'S *REALLY* STUP D.

WHAT THE HELL WAS *THAT?*

JUST GET IN THE CAR, BULLOCK.

IS HE GREAS.NG YOU?

YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALK NG ABOUT.

I'M NOT *BLIND,* GORDO.

DON'T *LECTURE* ME FROM SOME FICTIONAL MORAL *HIGH HORSE* AS IF YOU'VE COME HERE FOR ANY OTHER REASON THAN *PUBLICITY* AND *SELF-PROMOTION.*

AS SOON AS YOU HIT THE SAME WALL EVERYONE ELSE HAS TRYING TO SOLVE THE MURDERS OF THE WAYNES, YOU'LL BE ON THE FIRST PLANE BACK TO LOS ANGELES.

AND I'LL BUY THE TICKET.

DON'T JUDGE ME, BULLOCK. YOU DON'T *KNOW* ME.

HE DID IT.

HE *FIXED* IT.

YOU CAN'T TELL ME YOU'RE SERIOUSLY GOING TO TRY THAT AGAIN.

YOU DON'T NEED GADGETS, YOU NEED ME. WHEN YOU SEE WEAVER, YOU CALL ME. I WAS A PRETTY GOOD INTERROGATOR BACK IN THE DAY. I CAN BE PERSUASIVE.

THEN FIND A BLACKOUT HOOD. WEAVER CAN'T SEE YOUR FACE.

I DON'T WANT THE MAYOR TO KNOW WHO'S COMING AFTER H.M. THAT'S WHY I BROUGHT THE *MASK*.

AND WHAT DO YOU THINK PEOPLE ARE GONNA DO WHEN THEY SEE *YOU*?

THEY *WON'T*.

I'M TALKING ABOUT *BRUCE WAYNE*.

YOU HAVEN'T BEEN OUT IN PUBLIC IN A LONG TIME.

EVERYONE'S GOING TO WANT A *PIECE* OF YOU.

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT, IS THAT--?

THAT'S HIM ALL RIGHT.

THAT'S BRUCE WAYNE?

PLEASE, MY GOOD, FAIR PEOPLE OF GOTHAM, GIVE THIS HANDSOME YOUNG MAN SOME ROOM.

PPY 300TH BIRTH
THIS IS, AFTER ALL, HIS PARTY.
MAYOR OSWALD COBBLEPOT.
AT YOUR SERV CE, MR. WAYNE.

THANK YOU, BUT--

IT'S TRUE, MY GOOD MAN. WITHOUT YOUR ANCESTORS, WITHOUT THE ARKHAMS AND THE WAYNES, THERE WOULD BE NO GOTHAM.

THE ARKHAMS BUILT THIS C TY. THE WAYNES PAID FOR .T.

I WATCH OVER YOUR FAMILY'S LEGACY, MR. WAYNE, AND I TAKE THAT RESPONSIB L.TY VERY, VERY SERIOUSLY.

THANK YOU, MR. COBBLEPOT.

PLEASE.

IT'S *MAYOR* COBBLEPOT.

ENJOY YOUR NIGHT.

THERE ARE PLENTY OF GIRLS INSIDE...OR BOYS IF THAT'S YOUR THING.

"HAPPY BIRTHDAY, GOTHAM!"

HAPPY BIRTHD

HAPPY BIRTHDA

KLANK

KLANK

WHO'S THERE?!

Happy Birthday AMANDA

MAKE A WISH, AMANDA.

MY N-NAME'S NOT AMANDA.

LET ME *OUT* OF HERE.

I WANT TO GO HOME!

YOU HAVE TO MAKE A WISH.

BUT DON'T TELL ANYONE.

WOULD YOU LIKE A DRINK?

DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT IT. WE'RE ON DUTY.

I DON'T DRINK ANYWAY. NEVER TOUCHED THE STUFF.

CAN I ASK YOU SOMETHING?

NO.

WHEN'D YOU SELL OUT?

MY GOD. HE'S HERE.

BRUCE WAYNE.

SO THAT'S WHAT HE LOOKS LIKE.

IT'S SHOWTIME!

BULLOCK!

EXCUSE ME, MR. WAYNE.

DETECTIVE HARVEY BULLOCK.

LISTEN, I'D LOVE TO TALK TO YOU. GET YOUR PERSPECTIVE ON SOME THINGS I'M WORKING ON. SOME ADVICE.

I KNOW YOU. YOU'RE THE POLICE OFFICER ON TV.

YES, I AM. HOLLYWOOD DETECTIVES.

"NO CRIME IS UNSOLVABLE!"

THEY JUST CANCELLED THAT, DIDN'T THEY?

PRICK.

MR. WAYNE!

OH, MR. WAYNE!

EXCUSE ME.

CHK

WHERE'D HE GO?

BRUCE...

BRUCE, YOU SEE WEAVER YET?

YES.

HE'S ON THE ROOF.

I'M GOING TO BR NG H.M *DOWN.*

"JUST DO IT QUIETLY."

NICE LIGHTER.

=NNFFF!=

WHERE'D YOU GET IT, SCUMBAG?

KRAKM

NNGG.

DIOT. YOU THNK I'M THE ONLY ONE UP HERE FOR A *SMOKE?*

WHO THE HELL IS THAT?

I DON'T KNOW.

WHAT'S HE WEAR NG?

AHHH!

WE VE GOT TROUBLE! TROUBLE ON THE ROOF!

SOME GUY IN A BAT COSTUME!

A WHAT?

KT!

RRG!

GRAB H S CAPE!

EXIT

BANG

EXIT

WHO THE HELL?

GET 'IM!

KTANG

KTCHH

I THINK I GOT HIM!

NO!

KOOOM

CHANK

THANK YOU, MR. FOX--

WEEEE!!

WHAT?

LOOK OUT!

AAHH!

FREEZE!

BRUCE?

GET IN THE CAR!

"MOM?"

MOM? YOUR HAND IS SHAKING.

OH. OH, I'M SORRY, BRUCE. I GUESS I'M JUST COLD.

HEY, WHY'S THE DIRT *RED*? IS THAT BLOOD?

RUST, HONEY. IT'S JUST FULL OF RUST.

THAT'S YOUR HOUSE.

THE HOUSE I GREW UP IN, YES.

BUT PROMISE ME, SWEETHEART. PROMISE ME YOU'LL *NEVER* GO INSIDE, OKAY? *BAD THINGS* HAPPENED HERE.

LIKE *WHAT*?

BAD THINGS, PLEASE, *PROMISE ME*.

I PROMISE.

"BATMAN!"

Nn?

3:50

THAT'S WHAT THEY'RE CALLING THE LUNATIC WHO CRASHED THE MAYOR'S PARTY LAST NIGHT.

WHO WAS HE?

WHAT DID HE WANT?

THE POLICE ARE CALLING IT A PRANK, BUT INSIDE SOURCES TELL US HE PUT UP QUITE A FIGHT, ASSAULTING SEVERAL POLICE OFFICERS--

AND ALMOST BREAKING SOME NOSES, eh, GORDON?

HA HA HA

NO WORD ON WHETHER OR NOT THE MAYOR'S PARTY WILL BE **RESCHEDULED** DUE TO "BATMAN," BUT WE'RE GUESSING COBBLEPOT'S SENT HIS SIGNATURE **PENGUIN** SUIT TO THE DRYCLEANER!

WHO *IS* HE?

I DON'T KNOW, MAYOR COBBLEPOT.

WHAT DID HE *WANT* WITH YOU, MR. WEAVER?

I DON'T KNOW!

HE GRABBED *YOU* ON THE ROOFTOP. HE WENT AFTER YOU SPECIFICALLY.

WHAT DID HE *SAY*?

HE WAS *SHOUTING* AT ME. HE WAS *CRAZY!*

WHO KNOWS WHAT THE HELL HE WANTED?!

GET OUT.

YES, SIR.

I HAVE *ENOUGH* PROBLEMS WITH THE *DENTS* DIGGING AROUND.

CALL THE BIRTHDAY BOY.

BIRTHDAY BOY'S GOING TO NEED ANOTHER PAYMENT.

THEN WE'LL FIND SOMEONE TO *PAY* HIM WITH.

"AND WE'LL TAKE CARE OF *TWO BIRDS* WITH *ONE STONE.*"

I ASKED YOU TO GET JESSICA DENT OFF MY BACK, JUDGE PATTERSON. YOU DIDN'T.

I DON'T LIKE EXCUSES. DO WHAT I ASK OR YOUR YOUNGEST DAUGHTER IS NEXT.

I'LL TELL YOUR OLDEST *GOODBYE.*

Kk.

Wkk.

Mm.

YES. VERY NICE.

OH.

HE'LL LIKE YOU.

TELL HIM TO HURRY UP WITH HER.

I WANT JACOB WEAVER TAKEN CARE OF TONIGHT.

Wkk

HOW'S THE NOSE?

DON'T YOU HAVE SOME PAPERWORK TO FILL OUT?

WHAT PAPERWORK?

ON "BATMAN"?

OH, COME ON.

THE MAYOR ALREADY CALLED THE COMMISSIONER WHO CALLED THE CAPTAIN. THEY WANT TO KNOW WHO THE HELL HE IS.

SOME *NUT* LOOKING FOR *ATTENTION.*

TAKES ONE TO KNOW ONE, I GUESS.

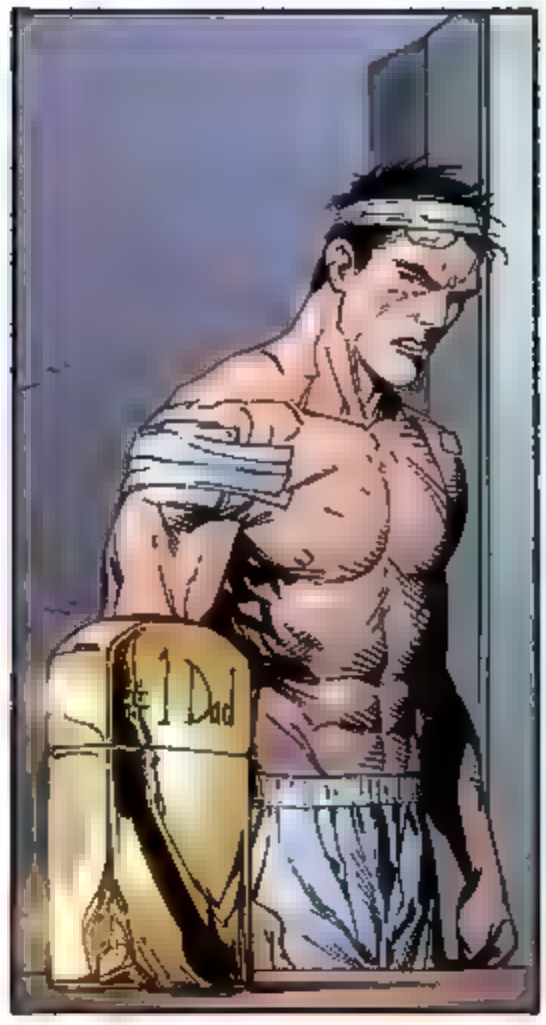
HEY! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

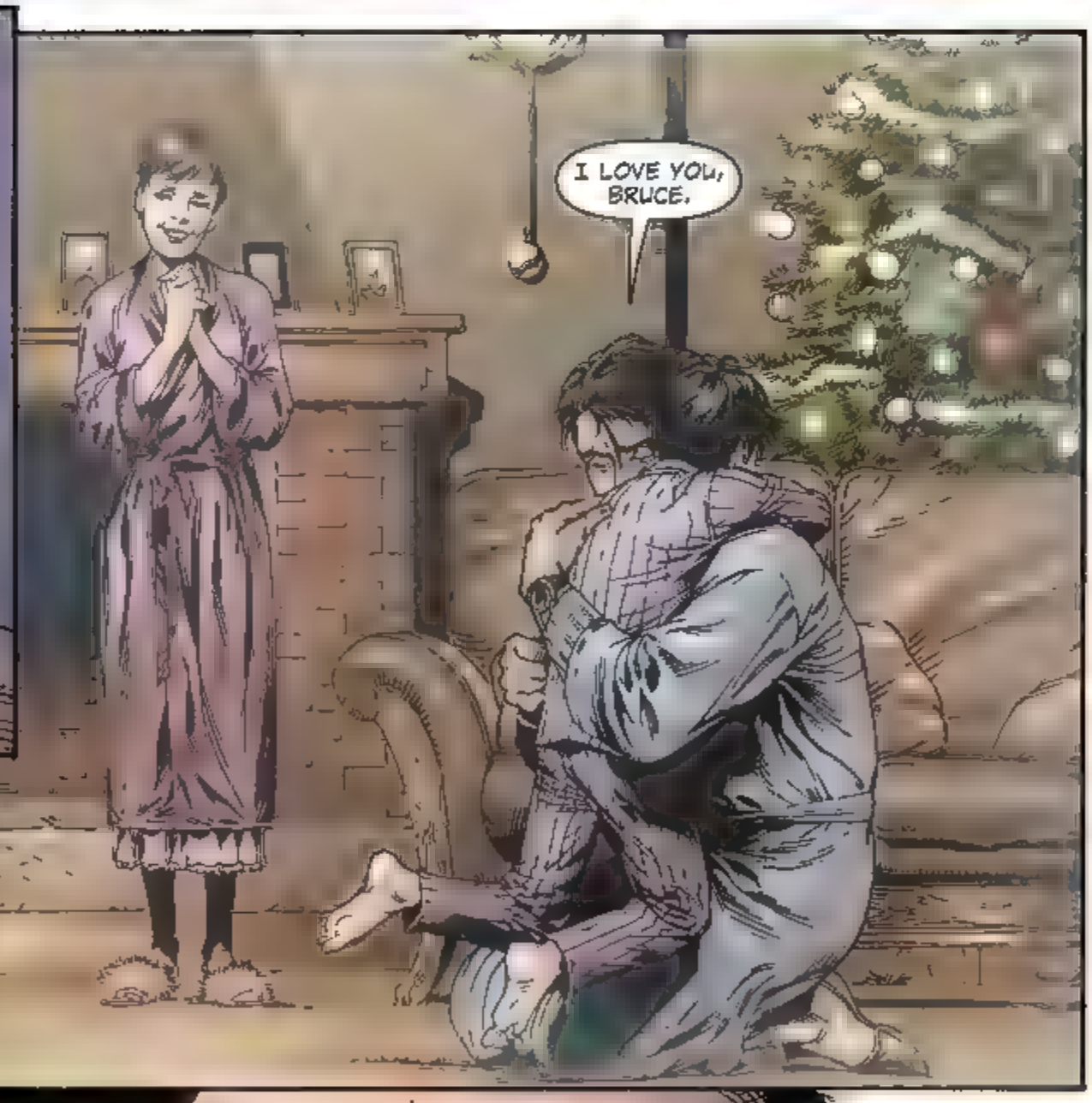
SHIFT'S OVER, BULLOCK.

I'M GOING *HOME.*

EXCUSE ME, GORGEOUS.

WHERE DO THEY KEEP THE *COLD CASES* AROUND HERE?


1 Dad


I LOVE YOU, BRUCE.

THAT WENT WELL.

YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO BRING WEAVER OFF THE ROOF *QUIETLY.*

INSTEAD YOU GOT INTO A SCRAP WITH SOME COPS AND LITERALLY *CRASHED* THE MAYOR'S PARTY.

YOU'RE ON EVERY BLOODY CHANNEL.

AND NOW COBBLEPOT KNOWS YOU'RE OUT THERE.

WHERE DID YOU GET THIS?

YOU DROPPED IT IN THE ALLEY.

YOU NEED TO STOP THIS. YOU'RE NOT *READY,* BRUCE.

YES, I AM.

DON'T.

OR WHAT? COME ON. SHOW ME I M WRONG.

STOP.

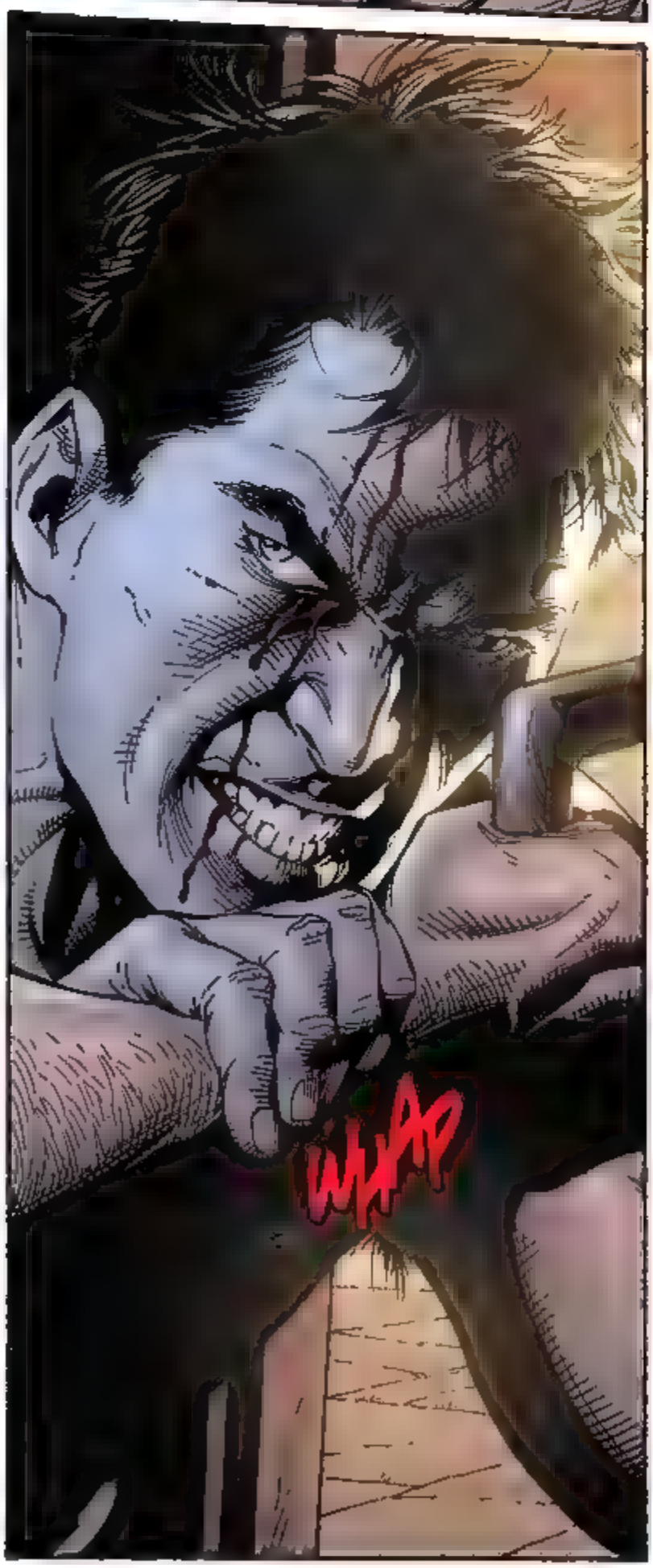
YOU ENTITLED BRAT. YOU AREN'T EVEN CLOSE TO READY.

YES, I AM.

WAMM

YOU'VE NEVER BEEN N A WAR.

I HAVE.


WHAP

=NNG!=

WANG

YOU'RE *EMOTIONAL.*

SLOPPY.

FWAMM

AND SOFT.

KTH

NO

NO *GUNS*?
NO *RECON*?
NO *TACTICS*?
JUST A STUPID *BAT COSTUME*?

A *USELESS CAPE*?

THIS IS *GOTHAM CITY*. THE *COPS* AREN'T YOUR *ALLIES*. THE *PEOPLE* AREN'T YOUR *FRIENDS*.

IT'S *EVERYONE* FOR *THEMSELVES* .N TH.S TOWN. IN TH.S *WORLD*.

YOU CAN'T DO IT--

--BECAUSE YOU AREN'T W LLING TO DO EVERYTH NG YOU'RE GOING TO *HAVE* TO.

YOU AREN'T WILLING TO SINK DOWN TO *GOTHAM'S* LEVEL.

FAMMM

ARR!

ALFRED, I...

I *WILL* DO *EVERYTHING* I HAVE TO.

AND I'LL DO IT *MYSELF.*

BLOODY HELL

MAYBE HE *IS* READY

EEEK

WHAT?

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
JACOB

MAKE A WISH.

BUT YOU CAN'T TELL ANYONE.

NO! WAIT! WAI--

HEY THERE, DOLL. I WANT TO CHECK OUT SOME FILES.

THE WAYNE CASE.

AS IN THOMAS AND MARTHA.

AND YOU ARE?

DETECTIVE HARVEY BULLOCK, JUST JOINED THE PRECINCT.

GCPD

BULLOCK...

YOU'RE NOT ON MY LIST YET, DETECTIVE.

WHAT'S THAT MEAN?

THAT MEANS I CAN'T GIVE YOU ANYTHING UNTIL YOU ARE. PAPERWORK IS PROBABLY STILL ROUTING.

SO?

CHECK BACK TOMORROW.

OH, NO.

LISTEN... THEY'RE NOT FOR ME. THEY'RE FOR MY PARTNER.

DETECTIVE JAMES GORDON.

HE SENT ME DOWN HERE AND IF I DON'T COME UP WITH THEM, HE'S GOING TO GET PISSED OFF, YELL AT ME *AGAIN* AND STORM DOWN HIMSELF.

SAVE US ALL SOME TROUBLE, *huh?*

DOLL?

JUST PRINT HIS NAME THERE AND I'LL SEND THE REQUEST.

THANKS, BEAUTIFUL.

Philip Mee
MARC OSMOND
JAMES GORD

HELLO? IT'S AMY DOWN IN RECORDS.

YOU MIGHT WANT TO LET THE MAYOR KNOW SOMEONE'S DIGGING INTO THE OLD FILES AGAIN.

Uh, huh...

"...DETECTIVE JAMES GORDON."

BARBARA?

I'M SORRY I'M LATE.

...BARBARA?

BZZD

HELLO?

HEY, DAD.

BARBARA? WHERE ARE YOU?

LEAVING THE LIBRARY.

HELENA CALLED N SICK AGAIN. I THOUGHT I COULD USE THE EXTRA SHIFT.

WHAT HAVE WE TALKED ABOUT? I DON'T WANT YOU OUT AFTER DARK.

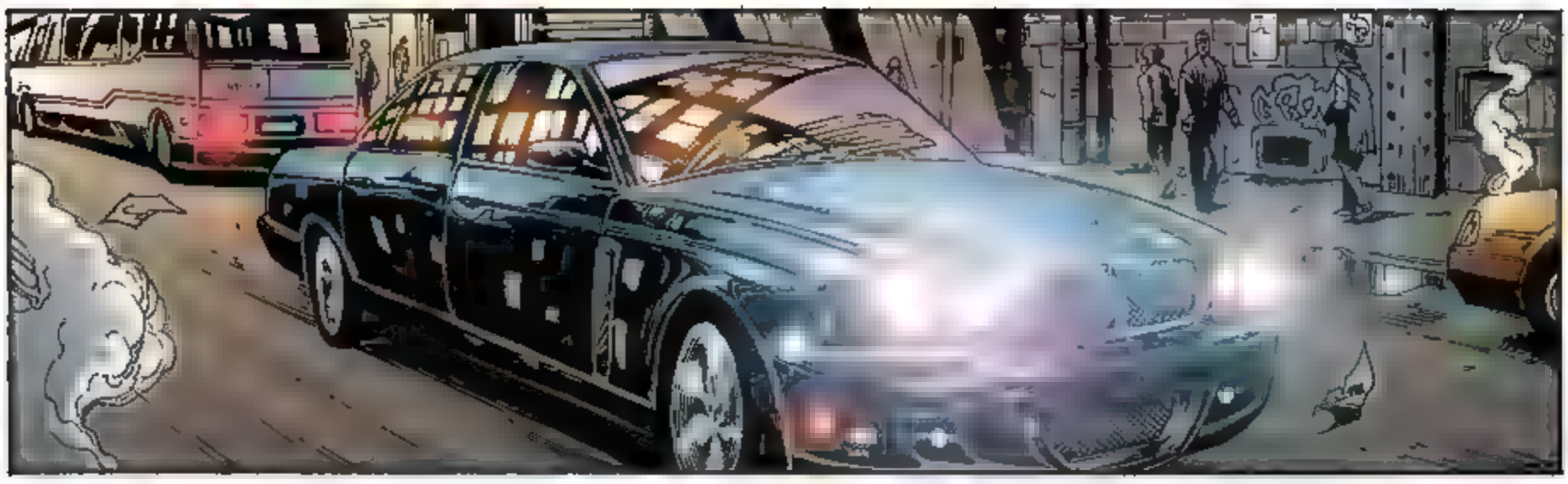
THE RENT CHECK BOUNCED AGAIN.

...BARBARA, I...

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, DAD.

YMC

WE'RE IN THIS TOGETHER.



JACOB

THUMP THUMP THUMP

YOU FORGET YOUR KEYS AGAIN?

NICE APRON.

WHAT ARE YOU DO.NG HERE?

I'VE GOT TO TALK TO YOU, GORDO.

YOU KNOW THAT BAT-GUY WHO WAS HARASSING JACOB WEAVER?

WEAVER WAS THE *FIRST* COP ON THE SCENE OF THE WAYNE MURDER.

AND NOW WEAVER'S *DEAD.*

LANDLADY JUST FOUND HIM WITH H.S *THROAT* SLASHED. THEY'RE ACTUALLY TRYING TO CALL IT A *SUICIDE.*

CASE

GET THE HELL OUT OF MY HOME, BULLOCK.

GORDO, WHATEVER'S HAPPEN NG... I DON'T KNOW .F IT'S CONNECTED TO THE WAYNES OR BAT-GUY OR THE MAYOR, BUT IT'S *SOMETHING BIG.*

I KNOW WHEN A *HEADLINE'S* BREW NG. I CAN *SMELL* IT.

BZZD

BARBARA?

NO, DETECTIVE GORDON.

AXE?! WHAT ARE YOU DOING W TH MY *DAUGHTER'S* PHONE? WHERE *IS* SHE?.

SOMEWHERE. BUT NOT EXACTLY SOMEWHERE *SAFE.*

THAT'S UP TO *YOU.*

YOU WERE WARNED BEFORE TO STAY OUT OF THE ARCHIVES--TO NOT DIG WHERE PEOPLE DON'T *WANT* YOU TO.

YOU CHECKED OUT SOME FILES TODAY. YOU WANT TO SEE YOUR DAUGHTER AGAIN, YOU *PUT THEM BACK.*

WHAT? WHAT *IS* IT?

YOU STUPID BASTARD!

YOU CHECKED THOSE OUT UNDER *MY* NAME?!

WHAT?! I WASN'T IN THE SYSTEM YET. I WAS JUST TRYING TO--

THEY HAVE MY *DAH-DAUGHTER,* BULLOCK. THEY HAVE *BARBARA!*

WHO DOES?

THE REAL GOTHAM. THE PEOPLE WHO CONTROL *EVERYTHING.*

THE SAME PEOPLE WHO HAD MY WIFE KILLED!

YOUR WIFE...?

I USED TO BE LIKE YOU, BULLOCK. I TOLD EVERYONE WHO TRIED TO GET ME ON THE TAKE TO GO TO HELL.

THEN MY WIFE WAS *KILLED* IN AN AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENT.

I DON'T KNOW IF IT WAS ORCHESTRATED BY THEM OR NOT...I DON'T THINK I EVER WILL KNOW FOR SURE, BUT...

I DON'T LET PEOPLE LIKE AXE OWN THE CORNERS BECAUSE I GET PAID. I DO IT TO PROTECT BARBARA.

SHE'S *ALL* I HAVE LEFT.

WE HAVE TO PUT THE FILES BACK!

AND THEN WHAT? YOU THINK YOUR DAUGHTER'S GOING TO BE SAFE? YOU THINK THAT'S IT? YOU DON'T STAND UP TO THEM, THEY'LL KEEP COMING AFTER YOU.

WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO? I CAN'T GO TO THE PRECINCT FOR HELP. I CAN'T TRUST ANYONE.

YOU CAN TRUST *ME*, GORDO. I MEAN, YOU MIGHT NOT *LIKE* ME, BUT YOU CAN TRUST ME.

WHAT DO YOU SUGGEST WE DO?

YOU KNOW THE CORNER AXE WORKS, RIGHT?

LET'S GO SEE IF HE LIKES *BASEBALL*.

WHERE YOU GOIN', HONEYS?

WE GOTTA GO TO WORK.

I'VE GOT WORK FOR YOU, BABY.

COME BACK!

KRAK

YOU'RE GOING TO TELL ME WHERE MY DAUGHTER IS.

GORDON?

YOU DON'T--

--AND THERE'LL BE *TROUBLE.*

WHAT IS THIS SUPPOSED TO BE?

GOOD COP, BAD COP?

C MON, AXE. I GET IT NOW. THIS IS *GOTHAM CITY.*

IT'S BAD COP, BAD COP.

"WHY'S THE DIRT *RED*? IS THAT BLOOD?"

RUST.

ARKHAM.

HELP!

SOMEBODY HELP!

NNN.

KREEK

HNF!

KRTCH

MAKE A WISH.

CHANGG

EEP
UT!
VATE
OPERTY

BOOM

"PROMISE ME YOU'LL *NEVER* GO INSIDE, OKAY?"

"*BAD THINGS* HAPPENED HERE."

AXE SAID THE MAYOR HAS A *HANDYMAN* THEY CALL THE *BIRTHDAY BOY*. SOME *SERIAL KILLER* ON HIS *PAYROLL*. HE HAS YOUR DAUGHTER...

...AND HE HANGS OUT N ARKHAM.

WE SHOULD CALL FOR BACKUP.

SO WE CAN WHAT? HAVE THEM TELL THE MAYOR WE'RE *HERE*? HAVE THEM *WARN* THIS KILLER? I'M NOT WAITING FOR *ANYTHING*.

OKAY, OKAY. JUST DON'T POINT THE GUN AT ME, RIGHT? I'M ON YOUR SIDE.

YOU'RE ON *MY* SIDE?

THIS IS *YOUR* DAMN FAULT.

KEEP OUT!

PLACE IS LAID OUT AS CRAZY AS YOUR STREETS.

THE SAME PEOPLE WHO BUILT THIS HOUSE BUILT GOTHAM. THE ARKHAMS.

Gotham City
1712

IF BIRTHDAY BOY KNOWS TH,S MAZE, WE'RE AT A DISADVANTAGE.

IT'S GONNA BE EASY TO GET LOST N HERE.

A

GORDO?

KREEK

BULLOCK?

YOU?!

YOU SON-OF-A-BITCH! ARE YOU WITH THEM?

DID YOU TAKE MY DAUGHTER?

WHERE IS SHE?

CHAK

WAP

I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT YOUR DAUGHTER.

THOK

MY DAUGHTER WAS *KIDNAPPED.*

SHE'S BE.NG HELD HERE.

BAMM

I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THAT.

GORDO?

CREEPY.

YOU'LL ALL GO CRAZY

HUH?

AAHH--!

KRSH

PLACE IS A DAMN *FUNHOUSE.*

STAY...

STAY AWAY FROM ME!

OH, NO.

BARBARA?

AAHH!

BARBARA?!

HELP!

WHERE?!

NO!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

NOW I MADE A WISH.

BUT WE CAN'T TELL ANYONE.

HAPPY

GORDON?!

CHIKK

YOU WEREN'T NVITED.

THWAM

AMANDA!

BARBARA!

DAD!

BLAMM

KRAK

AHHHH!

GO!

GET OUT OF HERE!

KRSHH

KRCHK

KRCHK

KRASHH

BATMAN?!

CHANGG

NN!

GET *CLEAR!* GET CLEAR SO I CAN GET A *SHOT!*

WHAK

TWANG

I'M 6 TODAY

HAA!

KRATCH

THWAM

AAH.

WHAT IS THAT? WHAT...

KLK

H...

HH...

KRAK

HAAAAAAAAAH!

GET OUT.

WE ALL HAVE TO GET OUT.

Hh.

A CAPE?

A WEAPON.

NNG.

NNN!

...CRACK!

DETECTIVE?

DO YOU HAVE ANY HANDCUFFS?

YES, I...

I...

SO MANY. THOSE POOR GIRLS OH, GOD..

WHAT DID I JUST *SEE*?

EVIL.

REAL EVIL.

BULLOCK?

WE TOOK THAT PSYCHO DOWN. BATMAN CUFFED HIM IN THERE AND LEFT, SAID HE WAS GOING TO TALK TO HIS BOSS. I'M GUESSING COBBLEPOT.

GORDON, YOUR DAUGHTER WASN'T THE FIRST GIRL HE ATTACKED...

...I'VE GOT TO... I'VE GOT TO CALL THIS IN.

BULLOCK--?

I'M FINE.

HOW DID YOU KNOW I WAS HERE, DAD?

LET ME OUTTA HERE

FWUMP FWUMP

I'M SO SORRY, BARBARA.

WILL YOU STOP ALWAYS SAYING THAT?

STOP BLAMING YOURSELF.

HOW'D YOU GET SO NICE?

I TAKE AFTER MOM.

I SAID I WAS SORRY!

MAYOR COBBLEPOT?! WE HAVE A PROBLEM!

WHAT IS IT *NOW*? THE DENTS AGAIN?

HELLO?

ANSWER ME!

EEP EEP EEP

YOU?

WHO ARE YOU?

VENGEANCE.

"VENGEANCE"? HAHAHAHAHA! HOW DRAMATIC.

KRAK

YOU'VE SPENT YEARS GETTING FAT AND RICH OFF THE PEOPLE OF GOTHAM. IT COULD'VE BEEN DIFFERENT.

IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN.

AAAKK!

STAY BACK!

AN UMBRELLA?

YOU'RE GOING TO STOP ME WITH--

SLIT

HONESTLY, IF YOU CAME HERE TO KILL ME YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE MADE SO MUCH *NOISE.*

KRAK

BUT YOU DIDN'T COME HERE TO *KILL ME,* DID YOU?

YOU CAME HERE FOR SOMETHING *ELSE.*

WHO *ARE* YOU?

BRUCE WAYNE?

I WORKED FOR *MONTHS* TO ARRANGE THAT! TO *PLAN* THAT!

BUT THEN SOMEONE *ELSE* KILLED THEM *FOR* ME.

AHHH!

YOU H-HAD MY PARENTS KILLED.

YOU *TUH-TOOK* THEM FROM ME

IT'S WHAT THIS C TY DOES!

IT ALL MAKES *SENSE* NOW.

SOMEHOW YOU KNEW JACOB WEAVER *CUT* THE POWER TO THE THEATRE. BUT YOU WENT OUT THE BACK, BEFORE *MY* MEN COULD GET TO YOU.

THERE ARE *TWO KINDS* OF PEOPLE IN GOTHAM.

THERE ARE *PREDATORS.*

AND THERE ARE *PREY.*

THERE'S A *THIRD KIND* YOU'RE FORGETTING ABOUT, COBBLEPOT.

CHUK

SURVIVORS.

MOVE AND I'LL--

BOOM

KR RK SHH

POP!

COME ON, BRUCE. COME ON.

DON'T GO ANYWHERE.

STAY WITH ME.

ALFRED...

LET'S GET YOU HOME.

EEP

THE DEATH OF MAYOR OSWALD COBBLEPOT WAS A SHOCK IN ITSELF, BUT THE AMOUNT OF INFORMATION COMING TO LIGHT ABOUT HIS ILLEGAL AND CORRUPT ACTIVITIES IS STAGGERING.

THE MOST HEINOUS BEING THE ACTUAL **EMPLOYMENT** OF A SERIAL KILLER WHO RECENTLY ESCAPED FROM THE CRANE INSTITUTE.

RAY SALINGER IS BETTER KNOWN AS **THE BIRTHDAY BOY**, A SERIAL KILLER FASCINATED WITH YOUNG GIRLS RESEMBLING HIS FIRST VICTIM, 15-YEAR-OLD DEBUTANTE AMANDA GRANT.

A MEMBER OF THE GOTHAM CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT WISHING TO REMAIN ANONYMOUS CLAIMS THAT **BATMAN** IS RESPONSIBLE FOR BOTH THE **CAPTURE** OF THE BIRTHDAY BOY **AND** THE **DEATH** OF MAYOR COBBLEPOT.

THE POLICE CHIEF HAS REFUSED TO VERIFY IF BATMAN **IS** INVOLVED OR WHO THEY SUSPECT THIS VIGILANTE TO REALLY BE.

EARLIER THIS AFTERNOON, THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, JESSICA DENT, WAS SWORN IN AS THE NEW MAYOR OF GOTHAM CITY.

MISS DENT, TWIN SISTER TO D.A. HARVEY DENT, IS A WELL-KNOWN FIGURE IN GOTHAM, MOST RECENTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CLEANUP PROJECT ON THE EAST SIDE AND MOST FAMOUS FOR HER STRING OF CLASHES WITH COBBLEPOT.

GOTHAM CITY **IS CHANGING.**

LET'S HOPE IT'S FOR THE BETTER.

IN OTHER NEWS, BILLIONAIRE BRUCE WAYNE CHECKED HIMSELF OUT OF A HOSPITAL EARLIER TODAY AFTER GETTING TREATMENT FOR INJURIES FROM A MUGGING LAST NIGHT.

NNRR!

WHAT HAPPENED TO *HIM*?

KRAK

HE WALKED IN FRONT OF MY CAR.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

WHAT AM I DOING? HE'S UNDER ARREST.

YOU CAN'T ARREST *HIM*.

WHY *NOT*?

WHO *ELSE* SAYS HE *CAN'T* BE ARRESTED?

WHO *ELSE* IS GOING TO LET THIS CITY BE OWNED BY THE *CRIMINAL SCUM* THAT PREY OFF IT?

WHO ELSE IS A DAMN COWARD?

NOT ME.

NOT ANYMORE.

AND SOMEONE NEEDS TO WASH OUT MY TRUNK!

WHO THE HECK WAS *THAT?*

HELL IF I KNOW.

KARATE
JUDO
SELF DEFENSE
S.A.S.
COOL.

MILTON ST
POLICE
DAVE IS

OSED

WHAT CAN I GET YOU, PAL?

WHATEVER'S THE *STRONGEST.*

ALL VODKA = ½ PRICE

PLEASE
ON'T
SK FOR
REDIT

IT WAS JUST THE WRONG ALLEY AT THE WRONG TIME.

THERE *WAS* NO CONSPIRACY, BRUCE. IT WAS A STUPID, RANDOM ROBBERY.

SO NOW YOU CAN PUT AWAY THAT *COSTUME.*

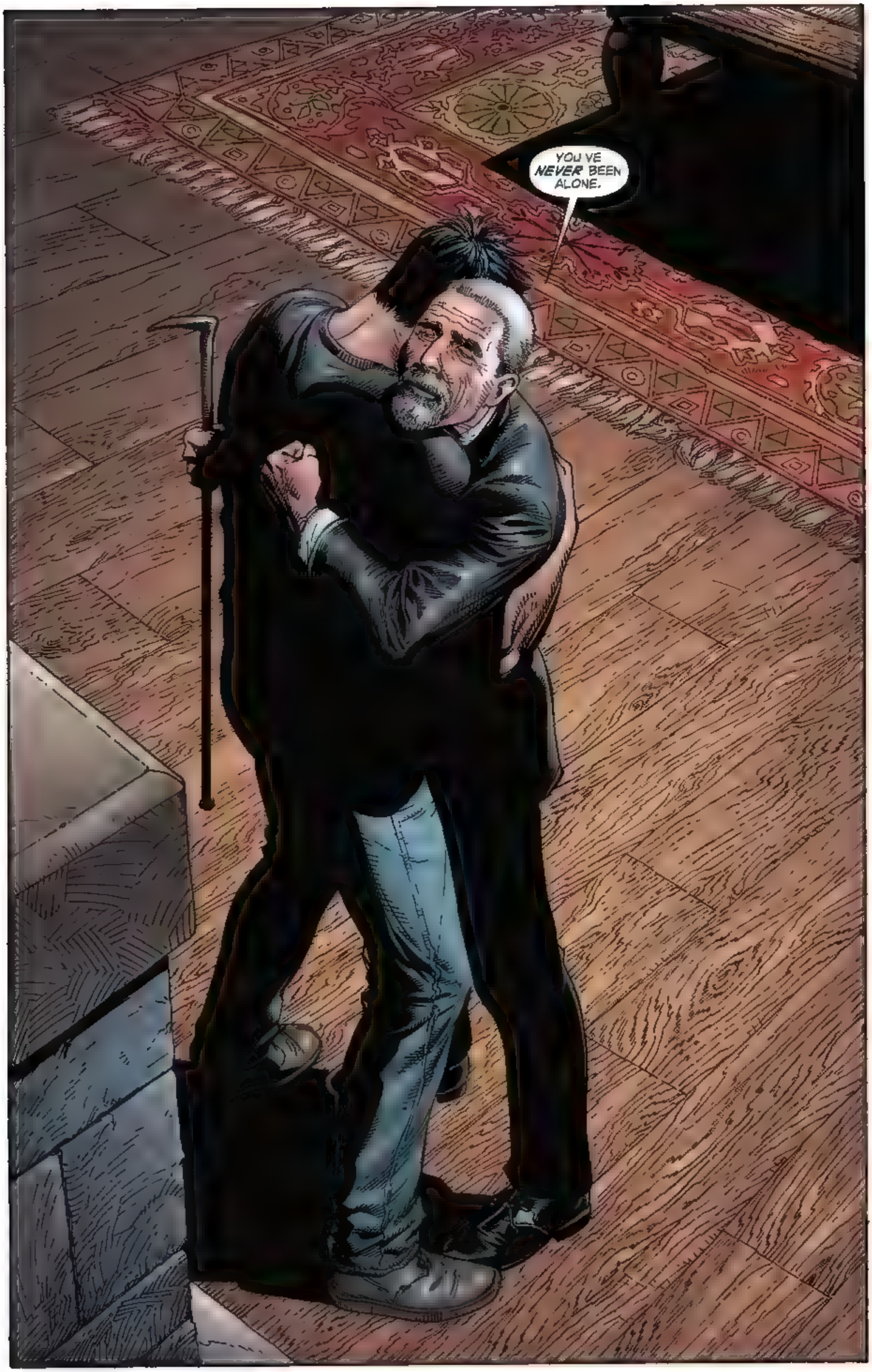
NOW YOU CAN *STOP.*

NO, ALFRED.

NOW I CAN *NEVER* STOP.

NOW I'LL ALWAYS BE ALONE.

BRUCE...


YOU'VE NEVER BEEN ALONE.

YOU WANT TO FIX THIS CITY? *FINE.*

BUT YOU WERE *LUCKY* THIS TIME. BATMAN'S NOT EVERYTHING THE PRESS THINKS HE IS.

THEN WE NEED TO BUILD A *BETTER* BATMAN.

MORE THAN THAT.

"WE NEED TO BLEED A LEGEND."

?
ATMAN?
IS BATMAN?
WHO IS BATMAN?
WHO IS BATMAN?

WHAT A RIDDLE.
END
OF BOOK ONE

27

27

27

27 28 29 23 24 25 19 20 21 5 16 17 12 13 8 9 4 5 B 1

13

DING

14

EXCUSE ME.

15

IT WAS SUPPOSED TO STOP ON FLOOR *FOURTEEN.*

IT'S PASSING MY FLOOR, TOO.

WHAT'S GOING ON?

39

DING

THE DOORS WON'T OPEN.

SOMEONE HIT THE PHONE BUTTON.

38

34

30

HELP

THERE'S NO NEED. I'M HERE.

SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH THE ELEVATOR, PA...

I KNOW.

IT'S STUCK AT THE TOP FLOOR.

THANKS TO ME. NOW ONE OF TWO THINGS IS GOING TO HAPPEN NEXT, SO LISTEN CAREFULLY.

THERE WAS A MAN WHO LIVED ON THE THIRTIETH FLOOR OF THIS BUILDING. EVERY MORNING, HE WOULD GET IN THE ELEVATOR AND PRESS THE GROUND FLOOR TO GO TO WORK. BUT WHEN HE GOT HOME, HE WOULD PRESS THE TWENTIETH FLOOR, GET OUT AND WALK UP TEN FLIGHTS OF STAIRS TO HIS APARTMENT. ***WHY?***

WHAT DID HE SAY?

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? STOP GOOFING AROUND AND OPEN THE DAMN DOORS.

ANSWER CORRECTLY AND THE DOORS **OPEN.**

ANSWER INCORRECTLY AND YOU ALL **FALL** FORTY FLOORS.

THIS ISN'T FUNNY!

YOU ONLY HAVE THIRTY SECONDS LEFT, SO I WOULDN'T WASTE THEM INEFFICACIOUSLY PLEADING.

LET US OUT! PLEASE!

NOT EVEN A GUESS?

THE ELEVATOR WAS BROKEN?

WHAT KIND OF RIDDLE WOULD THAT BE?

THE CORRECT ANSWER: HE WASN'T TALL ENOUGH TO REACH THE THIRTIETH BUTTON, CLARISSA.

YOU KNOW MY NAME?

HELLO?!

WHO ARE YOU?

BAD GUESS.

"GOTHAM.

"PEOPLE USED TO KEEP THEIR MOUTHS SHUT.

"COPS LOOKED THE OTHER WAY.

"THIS CITY BELONGED TO *US.*

"UNTIL HE CAME."

"YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT THE BATMAN."

"SHUT *UP*, MAN. DON'T SAY H.S NAME!

"THEY SAY HE'LL SHOW UP IF YOU SAY HIS NAME."

"LIKE THOSE HORROR MOVIES?"

"WORSE, MAN."

"THE BATMAN'S REAL."

GET BACK ON YOUR FEET, BRUCE.

HIS FRIENDS ARE STILL ON THEIRS.

CRAP! IT'S *HIM!* I *TOLD* YOU!

TAKE THE ONE IN FRONT FIRST.

I KNOW WHAT TO DO.

HIT THEM HARD. MAKE EVERY BLOW COUNT.

BLAMM

BLAMM

BLAMM

ON THE LEFT.

YOU'RE GETTING BETTER.

GOOD TEACHER, eh?

WILL YOU BE *QUIET?*

DON'T DR NK MY B_OOD!

AAHHH!

KKFF!

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?

I COULDN'T LET H M FALL.

YOU COULDN'T LET HIM FALL? KNOW WHAT I CALL ONE LESS DRUG PUSHER IN GOTHAM?

PROGRESS.

YOU'RE FUNNY.

I'M NOT THE BLOKE DRESSED UP LIKE A **BAT**. S'NOT AS FRIGHTENIN' AS YOU THINK.

YOU **REALLY** WANT TO **SCARE** THE SCUM IN GOTHAM?

LEAVING BEHIND A **BODY** OR TWO WILL DO IT.

THEY ALREADY THINK I KILLED COBBLEPOT.

SO LET THEM THINK YOU DROPPED SOME LOWLIFE OFF A ROOFTOP.

WE AGREED NOT TO BRING THIS UP AGAIN, ALFRED.

IF I HADN'T SHOT COBBLEPOT YOU'D PROBABLY BE DEAD.

AND WE ALSO AGREED WE'D CLEAN THE STREETS UP *MY* WAY, NOT *YOURS*.

NO GUNS.

NO KILLING.

Family Planned

GOTHAM: CITY OF MONSTER

YOU'RE NEVER GOING TO CATCH HIM, BRUCE.

AND I'M NOT SUGGESTING YOU KILL ANYONE.

I'M JUST SAYING YOU DON'T NEED TO GO OUT OF YOUR WAY TO SAVE THEM IF THEY HAPPEN TO TRIP OFF A BUILDING.

YES, I DO.

WHY DO YOU CARE ABOUT THEM?

IT'S NOT *THEM* I CARE ABOUT, ALFRED. THEY COULD HAVE A FAMILY. *KIDS.*

AND THE LAST THING I WANT *ANYONE* TO DO IS GROW UP THINKING *THE BATMAN* KILLED THEIR FATHER.

BRUCE?!

BRUCE?!

PIZZA FACE

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

POLICE ARE HERE. THEY'LL PICK UP THE OTHERS.

AND THEY'LL PROBABLY BE BACK ON THE STREETS BY SUNRISE THANKS TO HARVEY DENT.

I KNOW YOU DON'T WANT TO HEAR IT, BUT IF YOU WANT TO MAKE GOTHAM A SAFER PLACE, WE NEED TO RE-THINK HOW WE'RE GOING ABOUT IT.

YOU SHOULD COME HOME NOW.

I'M GO NG TO NEED A FASTER CAR.

DINNER'S GONNA GET COLD.

DING

DON'T TELL ME IT'S COTTAGE PIE AGAIN.

...

I'LL ORDER A PIZZA.

Gotham Gazette

CITY WORKER ATTACKED BY "KILLER-CROC"?

"BRUCE WAYNE WANTS A *WHAT* NOW?"

BAT
GON
GET
YA

A RACE CAR.

A RACE CAR, MR. FOX?

EQUIPPED WITH A NATURALLY ASPIRATED V8 AND A CARBON COMPOSITE MONOCOQUE CHASSIS.

THERE ARE SOME OTHER BELLS AND WHISTLES LISTED HERE ALONG WITH SOME PERSONAL MODIFICATIONS HE REQUESTED.

MR. WAYNE IS PLANNING ON COMPETING IN THE NEXT PRIVATEER RACING CLASS, SO IF WE COULD PRIORITIZE.

I THOUGHT MR. WAYNE WANTED THIS SPELUNKING EQUIPMENT?

WE SPENT MONTHS EMBEDDING A LASER RANGEFINDER INTO THE COMPRESSED SIGHTING COMPASS AS REQUESTED, LUCIUS. AND WE GOT THEM DOWN TO THE SIZE OF A CONTACT LENS.

AND MR. WAYNE IS VERY GRATEFUL FOR ALL YOUR HARD WORK.

I'LL LOCATE A BUYER TO COVER THE EXPENSE.

I'M SORRY, WE ALL KNOW BRUCE WAYNE'S INTEREST ISN'T HELD FOR VERY LONG.

BUT WE'RE HERE TO SERVE IT.

IF IT'S ANY CONSOLATION, MR. WAYNE'S AUTHORIZED ME TO INCREASE ALL OF YOUR SALARIES BY FORTY PERCENT. AND TO ESTABLISH TRUST FUNDS TO COVER YOUR CHILDREN'S COLLEGE TUITIONS. EVEN YOUR TRIPLETS, LINDA.

MR. WAYNE SAID, "IT'S THE LEAST I CAN DO FOR ALL THE TROUBLE I PUT THEM TO."

WELL, IT'S... IT'S NO TROUBLE AT ALL, IS IT, CREW?

THANK YOU, MR. FOX.

HAPPY TO HELP.

"WHO ARE YOU?"

THAT'S THE QUESTION *EVERYONE* IN GOTHAM HAS TO ASK AT THIS DELICATE POINT IN TIME!

IN THE WAKE OF MAYOR COBBLEPOT'S DEATH, MANY ARE SAYING THIS IS GOTHAM'S *WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY* TO TAKE THIS CITY DOWN A *NEW PATH.*

BUT IT'S ALSO A *WINDOW OF VULNERABILITY.*

IF WE DON'T *ALTER* THE COURSE OF THIS *MIGHTY RIVER,* IT STAYS *POLLUTED.*

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, DENT?

I'M TALKING ABOUT *YOU,* MARONI.

ARE YOU GOING TO BE PART OF THE *PROBLEM* OR PART OF THE *SOLUTION?*

YOU'VE GOT A *CHOICE* HERE, SCUMBAG. WE CAN *CONTINUE* THIS HEARING AND I CAN *OFFICIALLY* FILE *CHARGES* THAT WILL LOCK YOU BEHIND A *CELL DOOR* UNTIL YOU LOSE THE REST OF YOUR *TEETH--*

--OR YOU CAN COME BACK TO MY OFFICE AND TALK TO ME ABOUT WHAT YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS *DID* FOR MAYOR COBBLEPOT. WHO *ELSE* IN THE CITY YOU MIGHT'VE SEEN HIM *DEALING* WITH.

POLICE. COUNCILMEN. *JUDGES.*

WATCH IT, MR. DENT.

YOU GOT THE *OTHERS* TALKING, BUT *I* AIN'T A *RAT,* DENT.

SURE YOU ARE, MARONI. AND YOU'RE CAUGHT IN QUITE THE *TRAP.*

"GOTHAM IS GETTING A *NEW* IDENTITY."

WE DON'T KNOW IF IT'S FOR GOOD OR BAD, BUT--

GOOD OR BAD?

MAYOR JESSICA DENT AND HER BROTHER ARE ON A CRUSADE TO SAVE THIS CITY FROM THE FILTH IT'S BEEN WALLOWING IN SINCE THE WAYNES WERE MURDERED.

THE SOONER THE DENTS CLEAN UP THE MESS MAYOR COBBLEPOT CREATED, THE BETTER.

BEFORE HIS DEATH AT THE HANDS OF THE BATMAN, COBBLEPOT'S EMPIRE OF CRIMINAL ACTIVITY STRETCHED DEEP INTO THE ROOTS OF OUR CITY, INCLUDING THE "ILLUSTRIOUS" GOTHAM P.D.

ASK ME, THERE'S NOTHING WORSE THAN A BAD COP.

I AGREE WITH YOU ON THAT, BUT I'M STILL NOT CONVINCED THE BATMAN KILLED MAYOR COBBLEPOT. COBBLEPOT WAS SHOT, BUT EYEWITNESSES SAY THE BATMAN DOESN'T CARRY GUNS.

THEY ALSO SAY BATMAN CAN TRAVEL THROUGH SHADOWS. LOOK, IF THE BATMAN DIDN'T KILL MAYOR COBBLEPOT--

--WHO THE HELL DID?

CLAK

BULLOCK?

THAT'S ENOUGH, ISN'T IT?

IT'S ENOUGH WHEN I SAY IT IS, GORDO.

IT'S TIME TO GO *HOME.*

NOT UNTIL I TAKE CARE OF THIS.

THE BOTTLE?

NOT THE DRINKS.

HIM.

HIM *WHO?* YOUR HAND'S SHAKING.

THE ONE RIGHT THERE. IN THE MIDDLE.

THAT GUY AT THE POOL TABLE. NAME IS *DAMON DRUSE.*

DRUSE WAS ONE OF COBBLEPOT'S *ENFORCERS.* BROKE A LOT PEOPLE'S BONES.

IF THE D.A. DID A DEAL, HE DID A DEAL. WE CAN'T GET INVOLVED NOW.

LAST NIGHT, DRUSE BEAT UP HIS GIRLFRIEND WHEN SHE TRIED TO LEAVE HIM. HE HIT HER KID TOO. HER *KID,* GORDO.

SHE CALLED IT IN, CAPTAIN TOLD ME *"HANDS OFF."* JUST LIKE YOU.

NO ONE'S DOING *ANYTHING* TO HELP THIS WOMAN AND HER DAUGHTER.

THE GIRL'S ONLY *TEN,* JIM.

THEN WE GO GET HER AND HER MOTHER. WE TAKE THEM SOMEWHERE SAFE.

AND THIS SON-OF-A-BITCH GETS A *PASS?* *NO.* NO *WAY.*

AIN'T RIGHT.

HEY, DRUSE!

BULLOCK!

YOU LIKE BEATIN' UP WOMEN AND KIDS?

HOW ABOUT YOU TRY *ME,* YOU SACK OF--

YOU'RE GOING TO SOUND PRETTY FUNNY MOUTHING OFF WITH A **BROKEN FACE.**

CHRIST.

I AM *NOT* DOING THIS AGAIN, BULLOCK.

KLK

NEXT TIME, I'M WALKING THE OTHER WAY.

NO, YOU'RE NOT. YOU DO WHAT WE GOT TO DO IN GOTHAM. *BAD COP, BAD COP,* REMEMBER?

NOT ANYMORE. WE CAN'T LOWER OURSELVES TO THEIR LEVEL LIKE THIS. WE HAVE TO BE BETTER.

WHEN YOU *FIRST* CAME TO GOTHAM, *YOU* REMINDED ME OF THAT. *YOU* REMINDED ME OF WHAT IT *MEANT* TO BE A *COP* AGAIN.

THAT WAS *BEFORE* I KNEW GOTHAM, FRESH OFF THE BUS WHEN I STILL HAD *HOLLYWOOD STARS* IN MY *EYES* AND A *PALM TREE* UP MY *ASS.*

SIGH

YOU'RE A *MESS,* BULLOCK.

I JUST NEED ANOTHER DRINK.

YOU NEED TO GO *HOME.*

I'M STAYING RIGHT HERE. WHEN I'M *OFF-DUTY,* I'M *OFF-DUTY!*

HELL, WHERE I SPEND MY NIGHTS DOESN'T CONCERN YOU ANYWAY!

NIGHTS?

HEY! *LEGGO!*

IT'S TEN IN THE DAMN MORNING.

YOU'VE BEEN *ON DUTY* FOR *THREE HOURS,* BULLOCK.

FOR *THREE HOURS,* I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU IN *EVERY BAR* IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD.

JIM, I...

...I'M SORRY.

I DON'T KNOW WHICH WAY IS *UP* ANYMORE.

NO ONE IN THIS CITY DOES RIGHT NOW. AND NO ONE HAS THE EASY ANSWER HOW TO FIX THIS. BUT WE'LL FIND IT. YOU AND I.

LOOK. WE... WE'VE *ALL* BEEN THROUGH A LOT, HARV.

DETECTIVE GORDON? DETECTIVE BULLOCK?

CAPTAIN WANTS YOU TWO OVER AT THE GOTHAM TOWERS.

WE GOT BODIES.

...REASON BEHIND THE ACCIDENT IS UNDER INVESTIGATION; AUTHORITIES HAVE CONFIRMED **SIX PASSENGERS** IN THE ELEVATOR AT THE LUXURIOUS **GOTHAM TOWERS** HAVE BEEN PRONOUNCED **DEAD** AT THE SCENE.

IN OTHER NEWS, LAST NIGHT, ANOTHER ATTACK BY "KILLER CROC" SENT THE POLICE SCRAMBLING INTO THE SEWERS IN PURSUIT OF THE REPORTED CREATURE.

SKEPTICS CLAIM THIS **"MONSTER"** IS IN TRUTH THE **CROCODILE** THAT ESCAPED FROM THE GOTHAM ZOO AFTER IT **SHUT DOWN** LAST YEAR.

WHAT DO YOU THINK, ALFRED?

I THINK YOU'RE A **BAD DRIVER.**

I'VE GOT LUCIUS LOOKING INTO ANOTHER CAR--

WELL, YOU'RE GONNA NEED ONE IF YOU WANT TO ACTUALLY **CATCH** THESE BLOKES.

TEA'S BEHIND YOU.

YOU KNOW, YOU ACTUALLY DID **OKAY** LAST NIGHT. GETTING GOOD AT **BEATIN' UP** THE **BAD GUYS.**

IF WE'RE KEEPIN' SCORE, THAT'S OVER THREE DOZEN SINCE THE BIRTHDAY BOY SIX MONTHS AGO.

THOUGH MOST OF 'EM WERE **RELEASED** AFTER THEY MET WITH THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY.

WHY WOULD **HARVEY DENT** DO THAT?

DON'T KNOW.

DING-DON-DONGGG

SOMEONE'S AT THE DOOR.

SO ANSWER IT.

YOU'RE THE **BUTLER,** REMEMBER?

I NEVER SHOULD HAVE SAID THAT.

DING-DON-DONGGG

I'M COMIN'.

HELLO, ALFRED.

BLIMEY. LOOK WHO IT IS. THE *MAYOR* HERSELF.

IS BRUCE HERE?

WHERE ELSE WOULD HE BE?

BRUCE...

...YOU'VE GOT A VISITOR.

IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME, BRUCE.

JESSICA?

IT'S...

...NCE TO SEE YOU.

IT'S BEEN SINCE GRADUATION, I THINK.

YOUR FATHER'S RETIREMENT PARTY, ACTUALLY.

LAST YEAR? YOU WERE THERE?

BRIEFLY. YOUR BROTHER SAW ME OUT BEFORE I COULD SAY HELLO. HARVEY NEVER DID LIKE ME...

...AND YOU.

I'M ASSUMING YOUR BROTHER DOESN'T KNOW YOU'RE HERE.

HE DOES, ACTUALLY.

I HEARD THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE IS CUTTING DEALS WITH EVERY CRIMINAL BEING BROUGHT IN.

WHY WOULD YOU ALLOW THAT?

THE CRIMINALS DESTROYING GOTHAM AREN'T ONLY ON THE STREETS, BRUCE.

THEY'RE ALSO LOOKING DOWN ON THIS CITY FROM ABOVE.

THAT'S WHY I'M HERE.

WHAT I'M GOING TO TELL YOU, YOU CANNOT TELL ANYONE.

--

IT COULD GET MY BROTHER AND ME *KILLED.*

WE HAVE EVIDENCE THAT COBBLEPOT'S CRIMINAL OPERATIONS HAVE BEEN *TAKEN OVER* BY A GROUP OF *FIVE CITY OFFICIALS.*

COBBLEPOT'S EMPIRE IS STILL *ACTIVE* BECAUSE OF THEM.

WE DON'T KNOW WHO THEY ARE, BUT THEY COULD BE ANYONE.

I CAN ONLY TRUST TWO PEOPLE IN THIS ENTIRE CITY RIGHT NOW, BRUCE. MY BROTHER, OF COURSE...

...AND *YOU.*

ME?

WE'VE BARELY SPOKEN TO ONE ANOTHER FOR YEARS.

OUR HISTORY ASIDE, YOU'RE RENOWNED FOR YOUR SELF-OSTRACIZATION FROM THE REST OF GOTHAM.

YOU HIDE IN THIS MANSION LIKE *WILLY WONKA* IN HIS *CHOCOLATE FACTORY.* YOU *NEVER* COME OUT INTO THE *REAL WORLD.*

BUT YOU *HAVE* TO, BRUCE.

GOTHAM NEEDS A SYMBOL OF *HOPE.*

ISN'T THAT WHAT THE BATMAN'S BECOME?

THE BATMAN?

PEOPLE ARE *AFRAID* OF THE BATMAN.

WE NEED SOMEONE WHO *INSPIRES* PEOPLE, BRUCE, NOT SOMEONE WHO *SCARES* THEM.

SO WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO?

I WANT YOU TO ROLL YOUR SLEEVES UP AND GET OUT THERE LIKE YOUR MOTHER AND FATHER D D.

HELP ME *FIGHT* TO TURN GOTHAM INTO THE CITY YOUR PARENTS WANTED IT TO BECOME.

WHEN WE FIND THESE FIVE OFFICIALS, AND WE *WILL,* IT'S GOING TO SEND A *SHOCK WAVE* THROUGHOUT GOTHAM. THE PEOPLE COULD LOSE FAITH IN THE CITY AGAIN. JUST LIKE THEY DID AFTER YOUR PARENTS WERE KILLED.

BUT IF YOU PUT YOURSELF OUT THERE... THEY'LL HAVE SOMEONE TO LOOK UP TO WHEN IT HAPPENS.

GOTHAM MAY HAVE LOST ITS *KING* AND *QUEEN,* BRUCE. BUT IT COULD STILL HAVE ITS *PRINCE.*

IF YOU REALLY WANT TO HONOR THE MEMORY OF YOUR MOTHER AND FATHER-- HELP ME.

PLEASE, BRUCE.

JESSICA. .I'M SORRY I COULDN'T BE THERE FOR YOU. I MADE MISTAKES--

TH S ISN'T ABOUT *US.*

WE CAN'T LET OUR *OWN* PAST, WHO WE *WERE,* GET IN THE WAY OF SOMETHING AS *IMPORTANT* AS TH S. WE NEED TO MOVE *BEYOND* IT.

WILL YOU HELP ME?

NO.

NO?

I CAN'T PUT MYSELF OUT THERE LIKE THAT.

IF YOU NEED MONEY, I CAN WRITE A CHECK.

ANY PR.CE.

MONEY ISN'T GO NG TO SAVE GOTHAM.

PEOPLE ARE.

BRUCE, I UNDERSTAND MORE THAN ANYONE WHAT JOS NG YOUR PARENTS DID TO YOL AND I'M SORRY FOR THAT. YOU KNOW HOW SORRY I AM.

BJT IT ALSO ***BROKE*** GOTHAM'S SPIRIT.

YOUR PARENTS WERE GOING TO SAVE THIS CITY--

--AND NOW SOMEONE ELSE HAS TO DO IT.

YOU'RE A STRONGER BLOKE THAN ME, KID.

A GIRL LIKE THAT ASKS FOR MY HELP, I DON'T TH NK I COULD TURN HER AWAY.

I CAN'T PUT MYSELF *OUT* THERE THE WAY SHE'S *ASKING* ME TO. IT'S NOT HOW I'M GOING TO HELP GOTHAM.

AND *HOW* ARE YOU?

JESS CA SA'D THERE'S A GROUP OF PEOPLE WHO HAVE TAKEN OVER COBBLEPOT'S OPERATIONS.

PEOPLE SHE'S PROBABLY WORKING ALONGSIDE.

SHE NEEDS TO FLUSH THEM OUT.

I KNOW SOMEONE WHO CAN HELP HER.

THE BATMAN?

NO.

"DETECTIVE GORDON."

YOUR PARTNER'S STILL .N THE CAR.

DETECTIVE BULLOCK'S, *uh*, DOING SOME PAPERWORK ON A CASE, RORY.

IT LOOKED LIKE HE WAS ASLEEP.

WHERE'S THE REST OF FORENSICS?

WAIST DEEP 'N CRAP, LITERALLY. THERE WAS ANOTHER ATTACK .N THE SEWERS BY THAT CREATURE-- *KILLER CROC!*

"K LLER CROC"?

SOME HOMELESS GUY WAS TRYING TO FIND A PLACE TO SLEEP DOWN IN THE PIPES AND HE NEARLY GOT HIS *ENTRAILS* EATEN. NASTY STUFF.

HEY, I'VE GOTTA RUN TO THE VAN. I'M DOUBLE-PARKED.

YOU, *uh*, WANT ME TO WAKE UP DETECTIVE BULLOCK?

..ET HIM SLEEP.

DETECTIVE GORDON?

BATMAN?

YOU'RE *STEPPING* ON EVIDENCE.

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EVIDENCE?

I THOUGHT THIS WAS AN ACCIDENT.

THERE WAS A MAINTENANCE MAN WORKING ON THE ELEVATORS YESTERDAY. BUT WHOEVER HE WAS, HE WASN'T SENT BY THE BUILDING OR THE CITY.

HEY, WATCH WHERE YOU PUT YOUR HANDS, TOO. THE LEATHER ON YOUR GLOVES WILL SMUDGE ANY FINGERPRINTS.

YOU'RE NOT MUCH OF A DETECTIVE, ARE YOU?

THAT'S NOT *MY* JOB.

SO *YOUR* JOB IS JUST *BEATING UP* THE *BAD GUYS?* WHO TAUGHT YOU *THAT* WOULD SOLVE ANYTHING?

I MEAN, I KNOW YOU'RE OUT THERE, THE *WHOLE CITY* KNOWS THAT NOW, AND YOU'RE SCARING THE HELL OUT OF PEOPLE, BUT BETWEEN *HARVEY DENT* AND *YOU*, THE PUBLIC DEFENDERS ARE HAVING A FIELD DAY GETTING THEIR CLIENTS BACK ON THE STREETS.

HOW'S YOUR DAUGHTER?

FAR AWAY FROM GOTHAM, STUDYING COMPUTER SCIENCE AT BERKELEY.

BUT THAT'S NOT WHAT YOU'RE REALLY SAYING, IS IT? YOU SAVED HER, SO I OWE YOU. YOU NEED A FAVOR?

I HAVE INFORMATION.

WORD ON THE STREET IS THAT *FIVE PEOPLE* HAVE TAKEN OVER COBBLEPOT'S CRIMINAL NETWORK.

PEOPLE WHO HAVE YET TO BE IDENTIFIED, BUT THEY WORK FOR THE CITY.

HOW DO YOU KNOW THIS?

I JUST DO. CAN YOU HELP ME FIND OUT WHO THEY ARE?

THAT'S ONE HELL OF A QUESTION.

KLK

AND *THIS* WASN'T AN ACCIDENT.

WHY WOULD SOMEONE WANT TO KILL AN ELEVATOR FULL OF PEOPLE?

THEY COULD HAVE A VENDETTA AGAINST THE TOWERS-- A RECENT EVICTEE MAYBE.

I'VE GOT TO CALL THIS IN. YOU SHOULD GO.

WHAT ABOUT THE PEOPLE WHO'VE P CKED UP COBBLEPOT'S BALL?

I'D LIKE TO HELP YOU OUT, BATMAN, BUT I NEED MORE INFORMATION.

ESPECIALLY IF I'M LOOKING FOR ***FIVE CORRUPTED OFFICIALS,*** WHICH GOTHAM HAS NO SHORTAGE OF.

GET ME MORE TO GO ON.

UNTIL THEN, I'VE GOT TO...

OVER HERE.

I'LL SEE WHAT ELSE I CAN FIND OUT.

THANKS.

...

YOU'RE WELCOME.

A *QUESTION MARK?*

YOU SURE THIS IS CONNECTED TO THE ELEVATOR CRASH, GORDO? MAYBE IT WAS JUST SOME KIDS.

FORENSICS FOUND TRACES OF THE SAME PAINT IN THE ELEVATOR SHAFT AND IN THE CALL BOX.

THE CALL BOX?

WHOEVER BLEW THE CABLE WAS TALKING TO THEM FOR SOME REASON.

WE WOULD'VE FOUND HIM BY NOW IF HE HACKED INTO THE PHONE LINE. HE REPLACED THE WHOLE CALL BOX WITH AN *SRD*, DIDN'T HE? A *SHORT-RANGE DEVICE?*

A *TWO-WAY RADIO* BROADCASTING AT *LESS* THAN A *SINGLE WATT*. HOW DID YOU KNOW THAT?

THERE WAS AN EPISODE OF *"HOLLYWOOD DETECTIVES"* I CONSULTED ON ABOUT THIS GUY AND HIS MISTRESS. THEY FAKED THE MAN'S KIDNAPPING TO HIDE HIS MONEY FROM HIS EX.

GUY USED A SHORT-RANGE DEVICE SO THEY COULDN'T TRACE THE CALL BACK TO THE HOUSE...AND SO HE COULD KEEP AN EYE ON THINGS.

BUT IT ALSO MEANT HE HAD TO BE NEARBY.

WHOEVER *OUR* GUY IS, HE PROBABLY TRIGGERED THE EXPLOSION WITH THE SAME RADIO.

BUT WHY THE QUESTION MARK?

BLKKF!

MAYBE YOU SHOULD GO HOME AND TAKE THE DAY.

NO, NO, PEOPLE GOT KILLED. WE HAVE WORK TO DO.

GORDON?

ALLEN? MONTOYA? WHAT'S IT?

CAPTAIN WANTS TO SEE YOU BOTH.

AND HE'S GOT A *GUEST.*

ARE *THESE* THE *TWO IDIOTS* I'VE BEEN *WAITING* FOR?

CRAP.

DETECTIVES GORDON AND BULLOCK, THIS IS *DISTRICT ATTORNEY* HARVEY DENT--

YOU TWO *KNOWINGLY* ASSAULTED AN INFORMANT THIS MORNING.

MR. DENT, IF I CAN EXPLAIN--

YOU DON'T *NEED* TO.

YOUR *PARTNER*, DETECTIVE GORDON, SPOKE DIRECTLY TO *VICE* WHO SPOKE DIRECTLY TO *MY* OFFICE WHO *WITHOUT QUESTION* DELIVERED A *DIRECT ORDER* TO *STAY THE HELL AWAY FROM DAMON DRUSE.*

I DON'T RECALL THAT CONVERSATION.

YOU SMELL LIKE YOU WOULDN'T RECALL MUCH OF *ANYTHING*, DETECTIVE BULLOCK, BUT ACCORDING TO EVERYONE YOU SPOKE WITH, YOU USED *SEVERAL EXPLETIVES.*

ANYTHING YOU WANT TO SHARE, JIM?

I HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY, CAPTAIN LOEB--

I'LL HANDLE THIS.

WE DID CALL IT IN, DETECTIVE BULLOCK *DID*, AND WE WERE ONLY KEEPING TABS ON DAMON DRUSE WHEN A FIGHT OVER A POOL GAME BROKE OUT.

THEY *SPILLED* THEIR *DRINKS* ALL OVER US.

WE DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO CHANGE BEFORE WE WERE ASKED TO HIT THE TOWERS, WHICH TURNED OUT TO BE ONE HELL OF A *CRIME SCENE.*

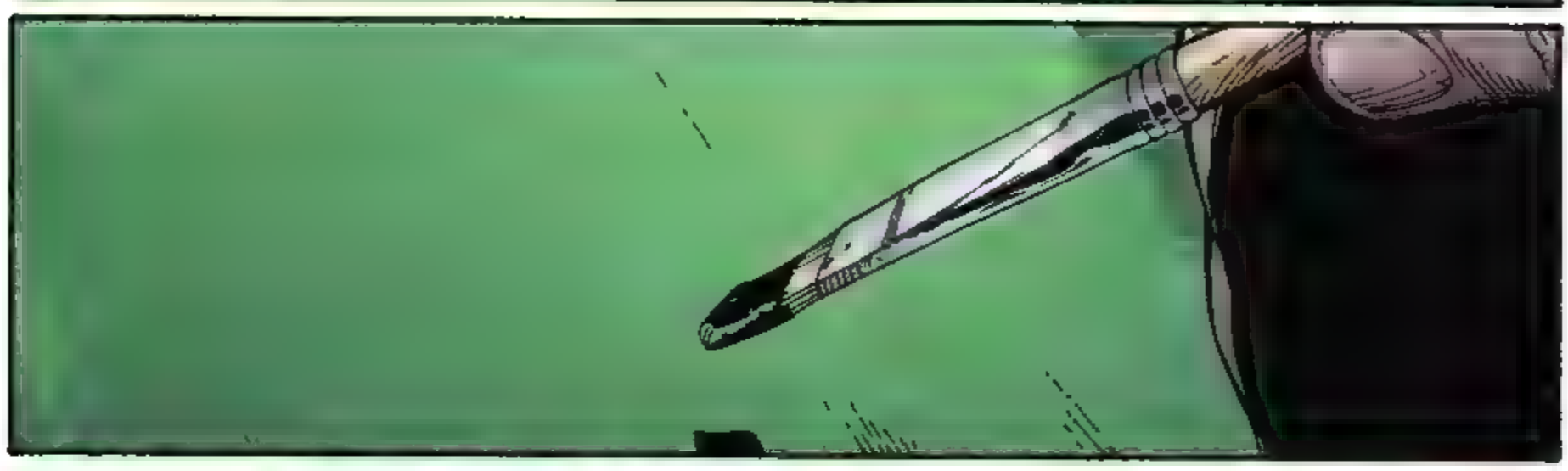
IT SOUNDS LIKE AN UNFORTUNATE CASE OF UNAVOIDABLE CIRCUMSTANCES, MR. DISTRICT ATTORNEY.

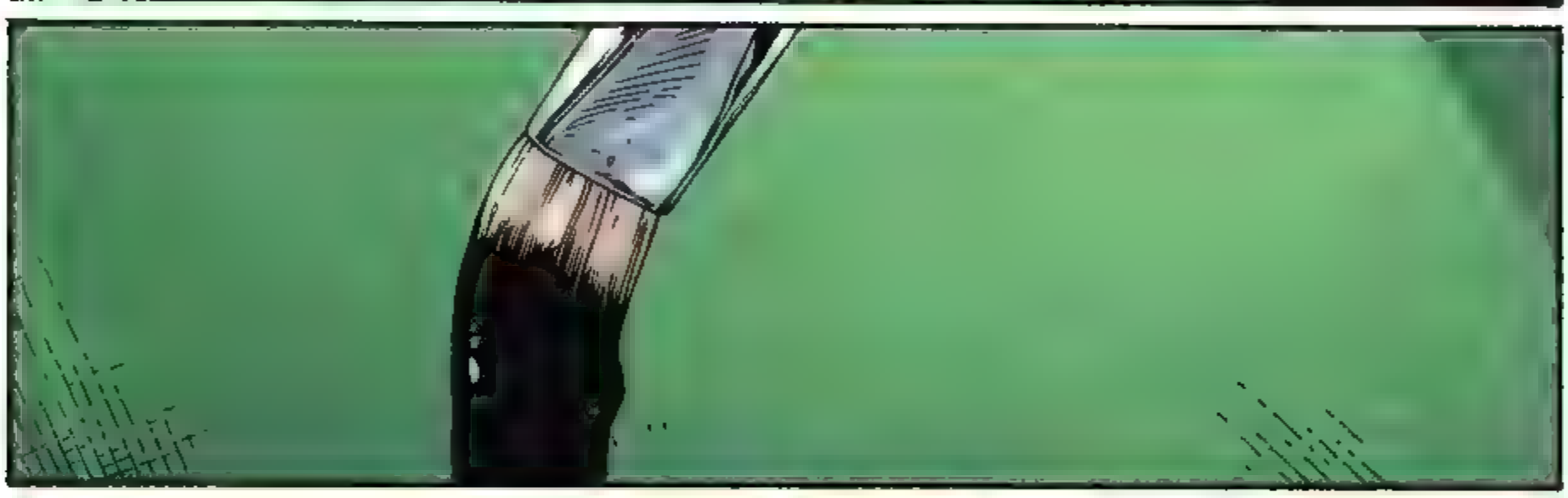
EITHER OF YOU SO MUCH AS *GLANCE* AT ONE OF MY INFORMANTS AGAIN AND I'LL HAVE YOUR *BADGES*, DO YOU UNDERSTAND?

I'M GOING TO CLEAN THIS CITY UP AND WHEN I DO, *HALF* OF THIS PRECINCT IS GOING DOWN.

I KNOW A BAD COP WHEN I SEE ONE.

OR WHEN I SEE *TWO.*





TIME FOR ANOTHER R DDLE.

STOP F DGET NG.

I'M NOT USED TO TIES.

YOU'RE WAY OUT OF PRACTICE, BOY.

THIS ISN'T A SOCIAL CALL.

I'M ONLY HERE FOR MORE NFORMATION ON THESE F VE OFF CIALS. AND ONCE I GET IT, I'LL TALK TO DETECTIVE GORDON--

ENOUGH WITH HIM. DETECTIVE GORDON DOESN'T KNOW YOU OR WHAT YOU'RE DOING OR WHY.

I CAN TRUST HIM.

I WOULDN'T TRUST *ANY* COP N GOTHAM.

RIGHT NOW THEY HAVE THEIR HANDS FULL, BUT ONE DAY YOU KEEP THIS UP AND WE DO CLEAN UP GOTHAM...THEY'LL COME AFTER YOU, BRUCE. *GORDON* WILL.

28

DING

CAREFUL ABOUT GETTING JESSICA *TOO* NVOLVED.

HE'LL BREAK DOWN THE MANS ON DOORS AND COME FOR *BOTH* OF US.

AND YOU CAN BET I WON'T GO WITHOUT A *FIGHT*.

I KNOW, ALFRED.

...NO, I'M NOT HIS BUTLER. I'M H S *BODYGUARD*. YOU TELL 'EM THAT, ANYONE ASKS.

"I'M GLAD YOU CALLED, BRUCE."

I HAD A FEW MORE QUESTIONS FOR YOU.

SURE.

DO YOU HAVE ANY OTHER LEADS POINTING YOU TOWARDS THE FIVE PEOPLE WHO HAVE TAKEN COBBLEPOT'S PLACE?

I ASK THAT BECALSE IF I'M GOING TO PUT WAYNE ENTERPRISES OUT THERE, AND THAT NCLUDES THE BOARD AND THE MANY TALENTED PEOPLE WHO WORK FOR THE COMPANY, I NEED TO BE ASSURED THAT NONE OF THEM ARE INVOLVED IN THIS.

THERE'S NO ONE AT WAYNE ENTERPR SES.

HOW DO YOL KNOW THAT?

YOL CAN COME N, HARVEY.

WAYNE.

HELLO, HARVEY.

STAY AWAY FROM MY SISTER, WAYNE.

YOUR MOM'S AN *ARKHAM!*

I DON'T WANT HER TO CATCH *CRAZY* FROM YOU.

JESS AND I ARE PUTTING EVERYTH NG ON THE LINE TALKING TO YOU. SHE TRUSTS YOU.

THAT MEANS I TRUST YOU TOO, WAYNE.

WHAT IS *THIS?*

THE REASON I'VE GOTTEN SO MANY CR M NALS TALKING .S THAT I'M MAKING A CONVERSATIONA_ MAP-- IT'S LIKE WEAVING A ***SPIDER WEB*** FROM THE OUTS DE IN.

EVERY TIME I MAKE A DEA_ WITH SOMEONE, I FILL IN MORE OF THE WEB. IT'S STARTED TO COALESCE AROUND ***FIVE INSTITUTIONS*** IN THE CITY.

"THE POLICE DEPARTMENT.

"THE HOUSING COMMISSION.

"PJBL.C WORKS.

YOU HEAR THAT? I THINK SOMETHIN'S DOWN HERE.

"THE CITY COUNC L."

AND THE STATE COURT. SOMEONE I PROBABLY SEE EVERY S NGLE DAY.

THIS S BAD, WAYNE. .

RENÉ MAGRITTE
SHOWCASE
MAY 6 through JUNE 25

"... THIS CITY CAN'T GET ANY WORSE."

WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO BE LOOKING AT?

MAGRITTE WAS A MAN WELL AHEAD OF HIS TIME. HIS PAINTINGS CAPTURE THE ESSENCE OF IDENTITY AND THE LACK THEREOF.

HE WANTS YOU TO THINK ABOUT WHO YOU ARE AND WHO THE PERSON NEXT TO YOU IS.

IT'S ALL AN ILLUSION, LIKE OUR OUTER SELVES.

LIKE EVERYONE HERE. HOW *ENLIGHTENING.*

LOOK AT *THIS* MESS. LET ME GUESS: IT REPRESENTS THE CHAOS IN OUR HEADS! AND THE FIRE IS MY BURNING DESIRE FOR A *DRINK.*

I COULD USE ONE MYSELF.

OH!

I'VE NEVER SEEN *THIS* ONE BEFORE.

THAT'S BECAUSE IT'S NEW.

IT SMELLS LIKE GREEN PAINT. IT POURS LIKE PURPLE PAINT. AND IT LOOKS LIKE A WHITE VAN. WHAT IS IT?

?

he Riddle

A TALKING PAINTING?

IS THIS SOME KIND OF JOKE?

?

I DON'T TELL JOKES.

THOOOM

HEY!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING? OPEN THIS DOOR.

MR. DRAKE IS IN THERE! OPEN IT!

THE CODE ISN'T WORKING.

YOU HAVE SIXTY SECONDS TO ANSWER MY QUESTION, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

AND WHAT IF WE DON'T?

?

FSSSSSSS

FSSSSSSSHHHH

HHHH

PFFT!

THIS ISN'T WATER. IT'S--

GASOLINE.

?

WAIT. WHAT WAS THE QUESTION?

WHAT WAS THE QUESTION?

IT SMELLS LIKE GREEN PAINT. IT POURS LIKE PURPLE PAINT. AND IT LOOKS LIKE A WHITE VAN. WHAT IS IT?

I...I CAN'T TH NK GIVE ME A SECOND...

THERE ARE NO MORE SECONDS TO GIVE, I'M AFRAID.

TIME'S UP.

THE ANSWER: WHITE PAINT. IT ALL SMELLS AND POURS THE SAME, OF COURSE.

I THOUGHT SURELY **ONE** OF YOU WOULD GET THAT CONSIDERING WHERE WE **ARE**. HOW **DISAPPOINTING.**

SKTCH

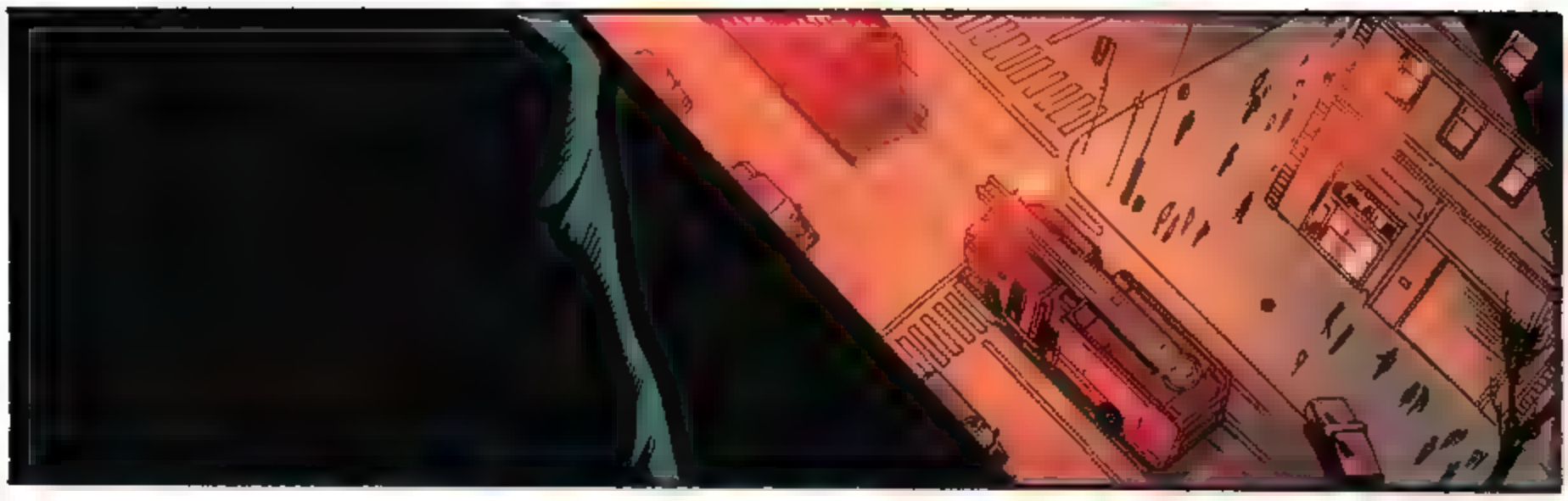
"THERE'S BEEN AN EXPLOSION AT THE MUSEUM OF ART."

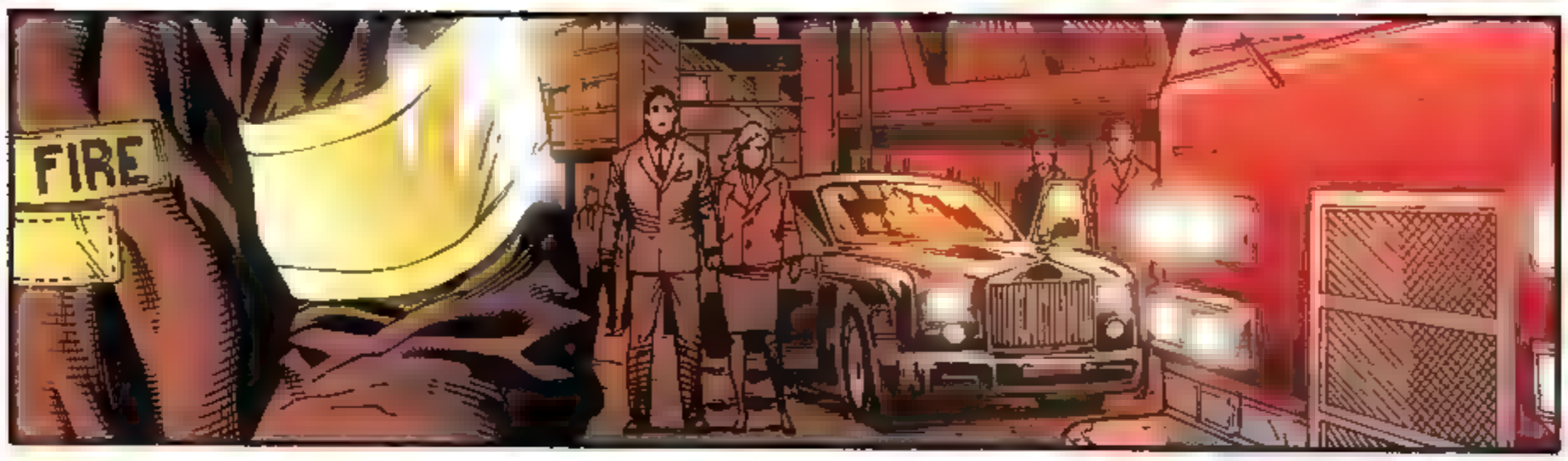
OH, MY GOD.

GET ME THE *FIRE CHIEF* AND *COMMISSIONER EVANS!* AND GET THE CAR PULLED AROUND!

ALFRED CAN TAKE US.

I WANT *ALL* UNITS THERE *NOW!*

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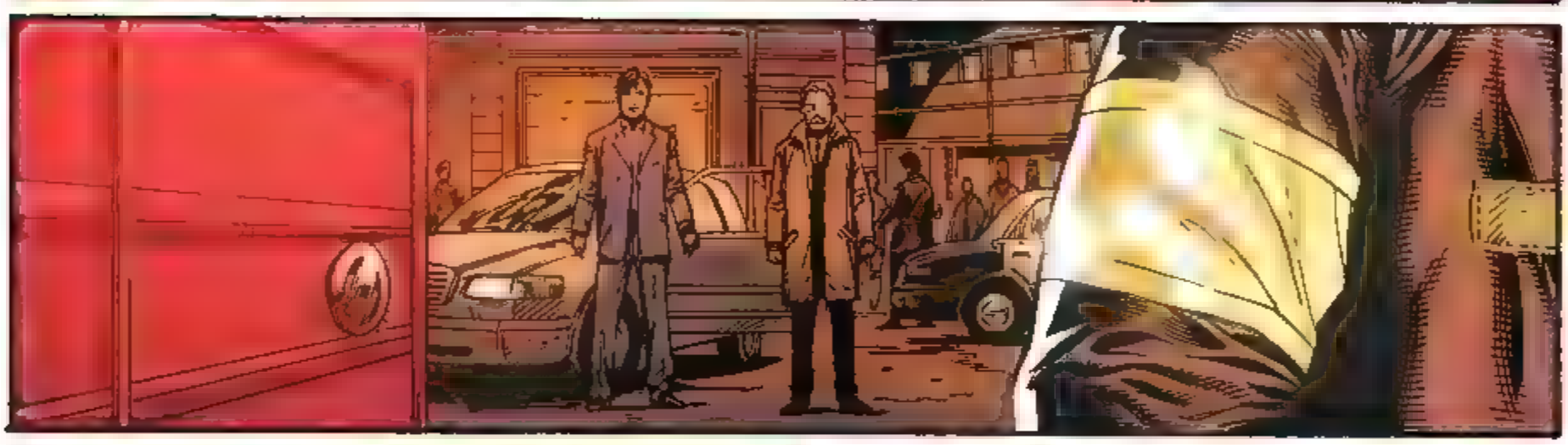
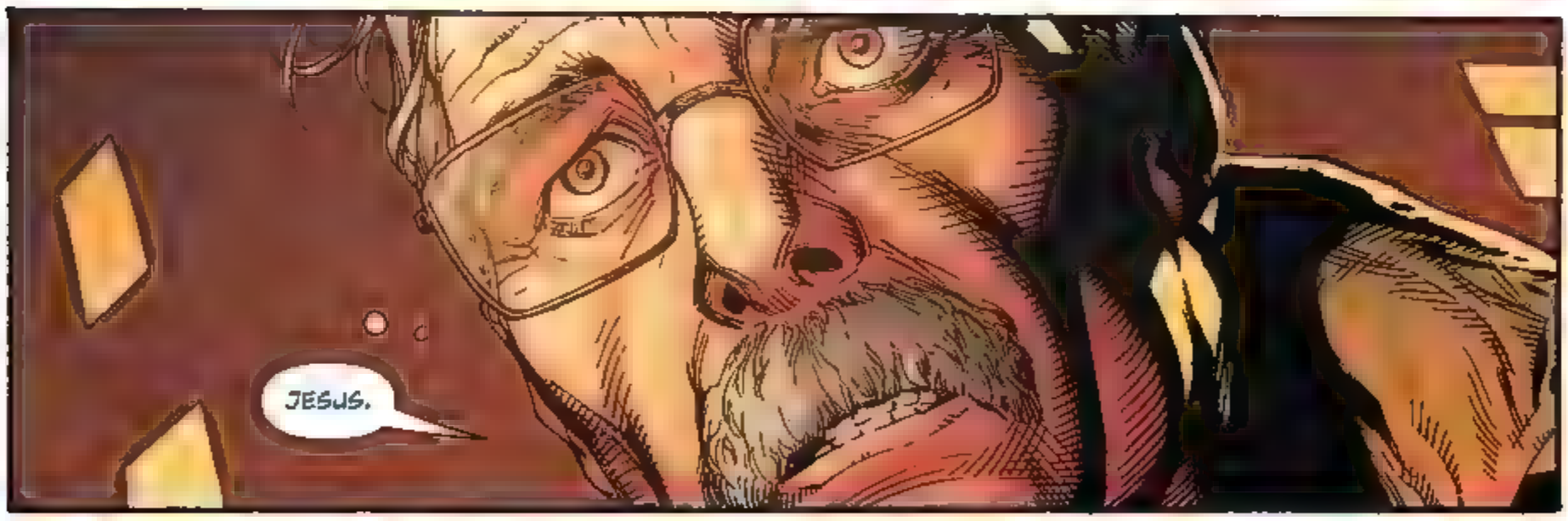
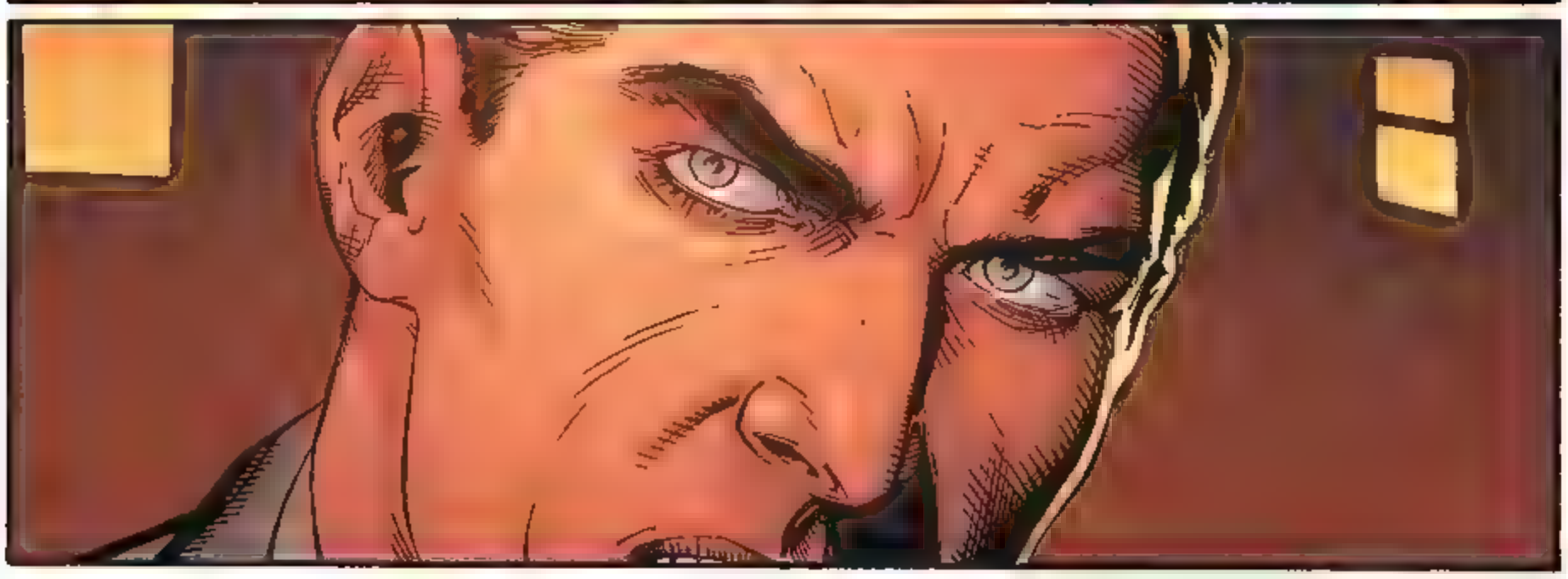



JESUS.



CAPTAIN: I KNOW WHO DID THIS.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, GORDON?

THE ***QUESTION MARK.*** THERE WAS ONE ON THE ELEVATOR AT THE TOWERS. ***THAT*** WASN'T AN ACCIDENT AND NEITHER IS ***THIS.***

AND WHOEVER IT WAS, THEY COULD BE NEARBY.

THEY WERE TALKING TO THEIR VICTIMS IN THE ELEVATOR BY SHORT-RANGE RADIO. MAYBE THEY DID THE SAME HERE.

YOU'LL EXPLAIN THIS ALL IN ***GREATER DETAIL*** LATER. FOR NOW, TAKE A TEAM. FAN OUT.

FIND THEM.

BRUCE?

IF DETECTIVE GORDON IS RIGHT, HE'S CLOSE.

WHAT? ***WHO?***

COVER FOR ME, ALFRED.

AND SAY ***WHAT?***

BRUCE?!

BRUCE?

MAYOR DENT. BRUCE, *um*, HE SAID HE HAD TO GO.

HE HAD TO ***GO?*** GO ***WHERE?***

I KNOW YOU WANT TO BELIEVE IN WAYNE, JESS, BUT YOU CAN'T COUNT ON HIM.

"HE *RUNS* AT THE FIRST SIGN OF *TROUBLE.*"

JESSICA'S LOOKING FOR YOU

WHERE ARE YOU?

ON THE ROOFTOPS.

THEY'RE UP HERE.

WHO IS?

THE PSYCHOPATH WHO KILLED AN ELEVATOR FULL OF PEOPLE AND JUST BLEW UP THE MUSEUM.

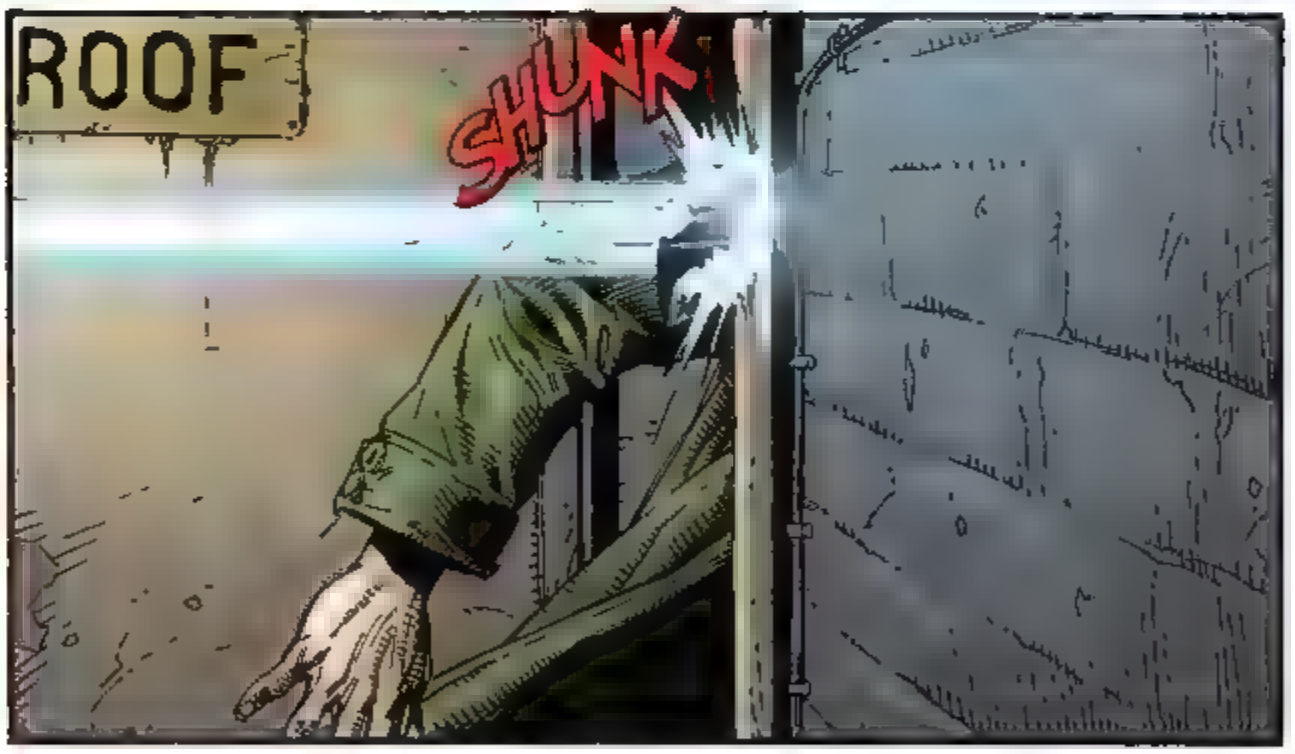
EVEN IF THEY ARE UP THERE, BRUCE, HOW DO YOU KNOW WHERE TO LOOK?

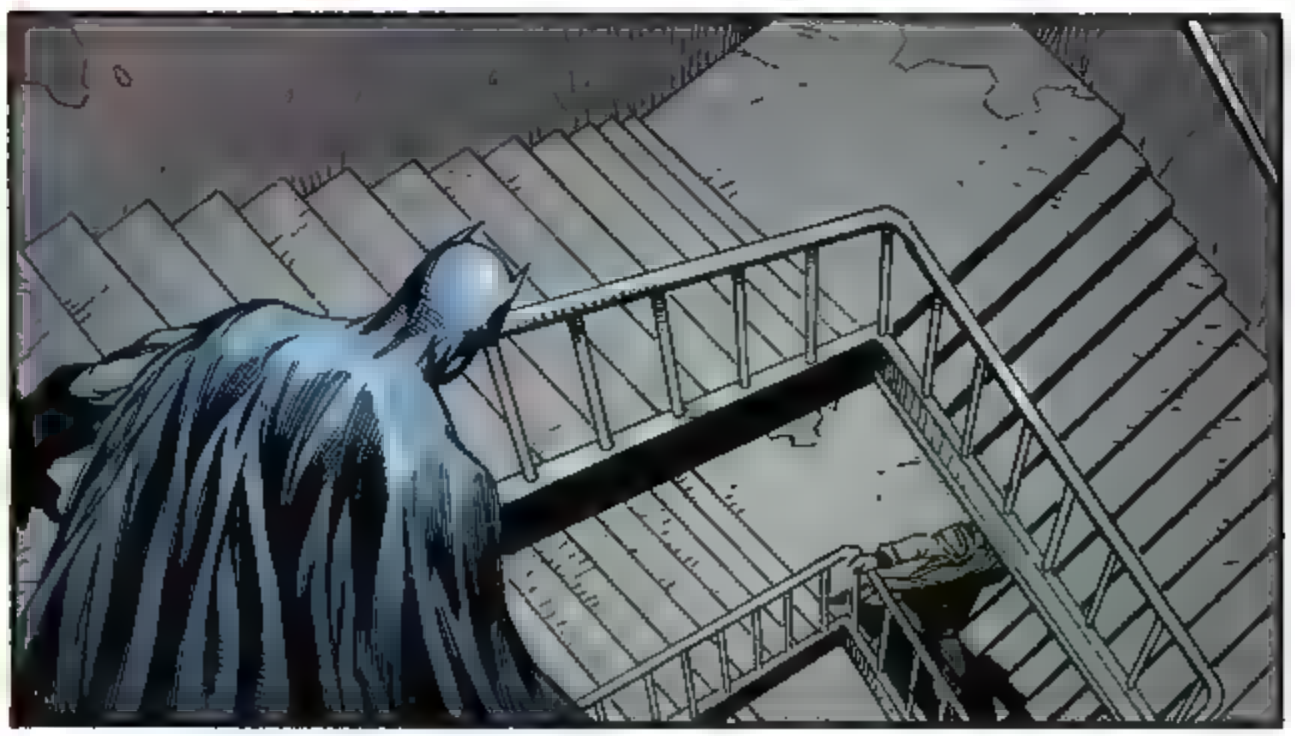
THEY'LL WANT A GOOD VIEW.

GOT HIM.

JIM!

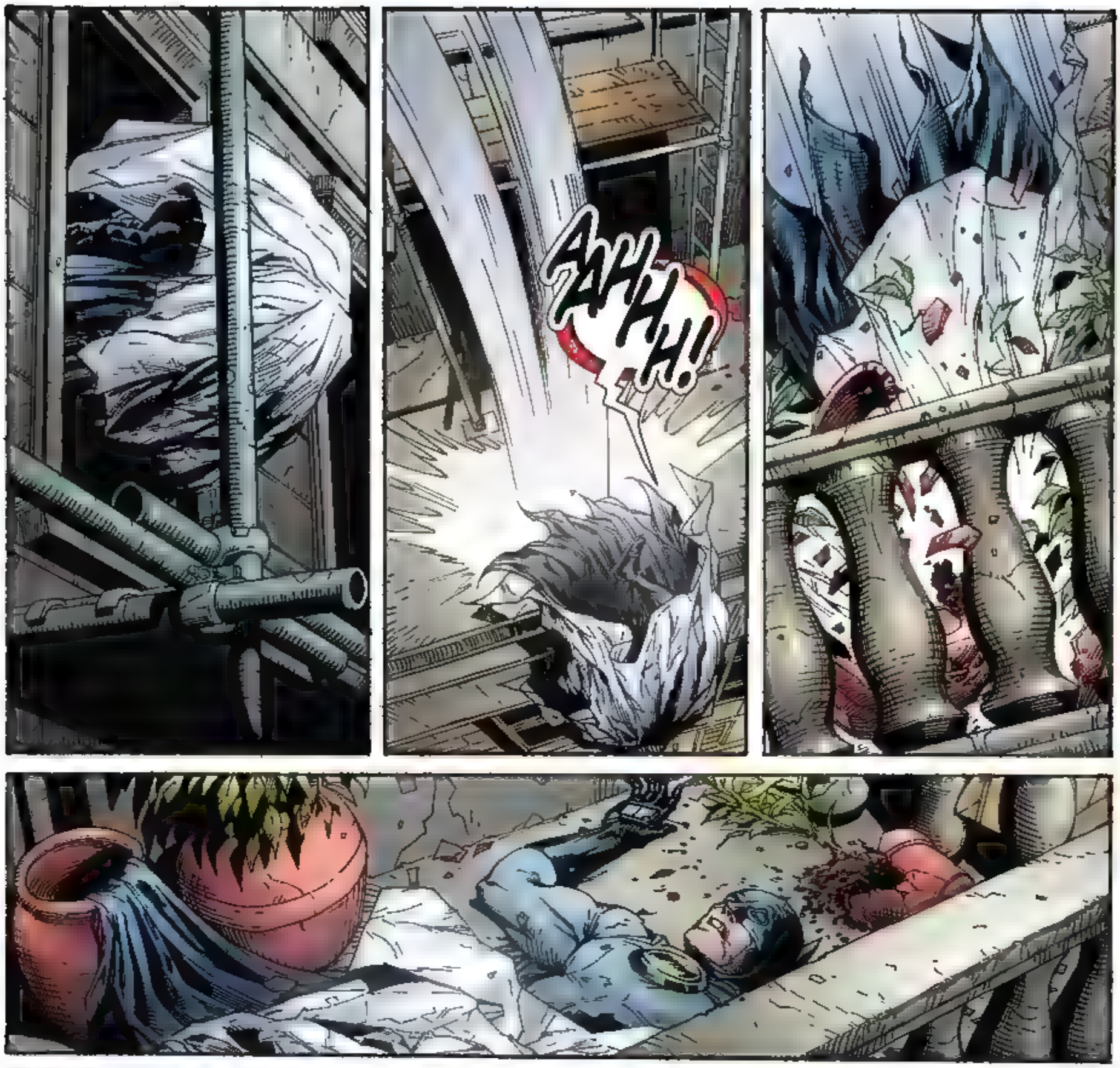
WHAT THE HELL IS HAPPENING TO THIS CITY?


ROOF
SHUNK



DID YOU GET HIM?

BRUCE?


SAPH!!

OH, MY.

Nngg?

3:35

WHAT HAPPENED?

YOU, UH.

YOU FELL ONTO MY BALCONY

I CAN'T BELIEVE *BATMAN'S* IN MY BEDROOM.

WHO ARE YOU?

CAN YOU PLEASE KEEP IT DOWN? I'VE GOT A SIX-YEAR-OLD SLEEPING IN THERE.

AAH.

YOU HAVE A PRETTY DEEP CUT ON YOUR SHOULDER. I'M NO NURSE... I DID THE BEST I COULD, BUT...

...I FIGURED YOU WOULDN'T WANT ME CALLING 911.

NO.

THANK YOU.

YOU WORK OUT. LIKE A LOT.

I MEAN MY KID. MY KID LOVES YOU.

MOST OF GOTHAM DOES.

MOST OF GOTHAM TRUSTS YOU MORE THAN THE POLICE.

I THOUGHT THEY WERE AFRAID OF ME.

ONLY THE PEOPLE WHO SHOULD BE, RIGHT? BESIDES, WE ALL KNOW IT'S NOT TRUE.

WHAT'S NOT TRUE?

YOU DIDN'T KILL MAYOR COBBLEPOT.

THEY SAID HE WAS *SHOT*, BUT YOU DON'T HAVE ANY *GUNS*.

JUST THESE.

OW.

THAT'S ENOUGH QUESTIONS.

SORRY.

I'M SORRY FOR CRASHING IN.

IT'S ONLY A COUPLE POTS OF FLOWERS.

I'LL SEND THE FLOWERS.

77

HERE.

BUY SOME NEW POTS.

I THOUGHT YOU WERE *DEAD.*

WHO STITCHED YOU UP ANYWAY? DOCTOR FRANKENSTEIN?

SHE DID THE BEST SHE COULD.

SHE?

A WOMAN. I CRASHED INTO HER GARDEN AFTER THE BOMBER PUSHED ME OFF THE BUILDING.

BUT I DID GET SOMETHING FOR MY TROUBLE.

A *SHORT-RANGE RADIO.*

THAT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE A GREAT CONSOLATION PRIZE.

I'M HOPING DETECTIVE GORDON CAN PULL SOME FINGERPRINTS OR TRACE THE SERIAL NUMBER.

DETECTIVE GORDON? YOU'RE GOING TO HIM AGAIN?

UNLESS *YOU* CAN DO ALL THAT?

WHY THE HELL ARE YOU INSISTING ON WEARING THAT DAMN SPANDEX ANYWAY?

YOU GO OUT THERE *WITHOUT* A GUN AGAINST BLOKES *WITH* THEM--YOU SHOULD BE WEARING BLOODY *BODY ARMOR.*

DO YOU KNOW WHAT BODY ARMOR SAYS ABOUT A GUY?

IT SAYS HE NEEDS BODY ARMOR.

"I DON'T UNDERSTAND HIM."

IN THE MIDDLE OF ALL THAT, HE DISAPPEARS?

BUT WE DON'T KNOW WHY, HARVEY.

AND WE MIGHT *NEVER* KNOW. WAYNE HASN'T BOTHERED TO CALL US.

HELL, JESS, HE COULD BE PART OF THIS *CRIMINAL EMPIRE.*

PLEASE, HARVEY.

YEAH, HE'S RICH, BUT HE'S NOT SATISFIED. YOU CAN SEE IT IN HIS EYES. HE WANTS SOMETHING *MORE* AND I DON'T LIKE IT.

WAYNE MIGHT OWN A MAJORITY OF WAYNE ENTERPRISES, BUT HE DOESN'T WORK THERE. HE CALLS IN FOR A BOARD MEETING ONCE A MONTH. STOPS BY ON OCCASION TO GRAB CLIMBING GEAR.

YOU'RE CHECKING UP ON HIM?

AS SOON AS YOU TOLD ME YOU WERE GOING TO HIM FOR HELP. I'M TELLING YOU, THERE'S SOMETHING NOT *RIGHT* ABOUT BRUCE WAYNE. THERE NEVER *HAS* BEEN.

STOP IT, HARVEY.

HE'S NOT THE *LITTLE BOY* YOU CAN *BULLY* EVERY TIME HE TALKS TO YOUR *TWIN SISTER.*

HE'S GOT *ARKHAM BLOOD* IN HIS *VEINS.*

HE WAS *CREEPY* WHEN WE WERE KIDS, JESS, AND HE'S *CREEPY* NOW.

I'M JUST LOOKING OUT FOR YOU.

MAYOR DENT?

A COURIER DROPPED THIS OFF.

BEHIND YOU.

ANYTHING?

NO FINGERPRINTS AND THE RADIO WAS SOLD AT A BIG BOX RETAILER, SO THERE'S NO WAY OF TRACKING THIS SPECIFIC RADIO TO A BUYER.

BUT FORENSICS DID FIND TRACES OF ***SEWAGE.***

SO WHOEVER HE IS, HE'S BEEN IN THE ***SEWERS.***

I WANT YOU TO TEACH ME, DETECTIVE. FORENSICS. CRIME SCENES.

I CAN DO THAT IF YOU REALLY WANT TO LEARN. BUT FOR NOW...THE SEWERS, BATMAN? DOWN THERE?

"THEY CALL IT ***ARKHAM'S LABYRINTH.***

"THERE ARE TUNNELS THAT STRETCH AROUND THE CITY AND LOOP INTO ONE ANOTHER.

"OTHERS THAT GO ON FOR MILES TO DEAD ENDS.

"PEOPLE HAVE GONE IN AND NEVER COME OUT."

THEY WERE BUILT IN THE 1800s BY THE ARKHAMS, INFAMOUSLY DESIGNED BY--

JEREMIAH ARKHAM.

HE THOUGHT THE LABYRINTH WOULD TRAP THE EVIL SPIRITS THAT HAUNTED GOTHAM...

". . AND DROVE HIM INSANE."

DING- DON- DONGGG

HOLD YOUR BLOODY HORSES.

JESSICA?

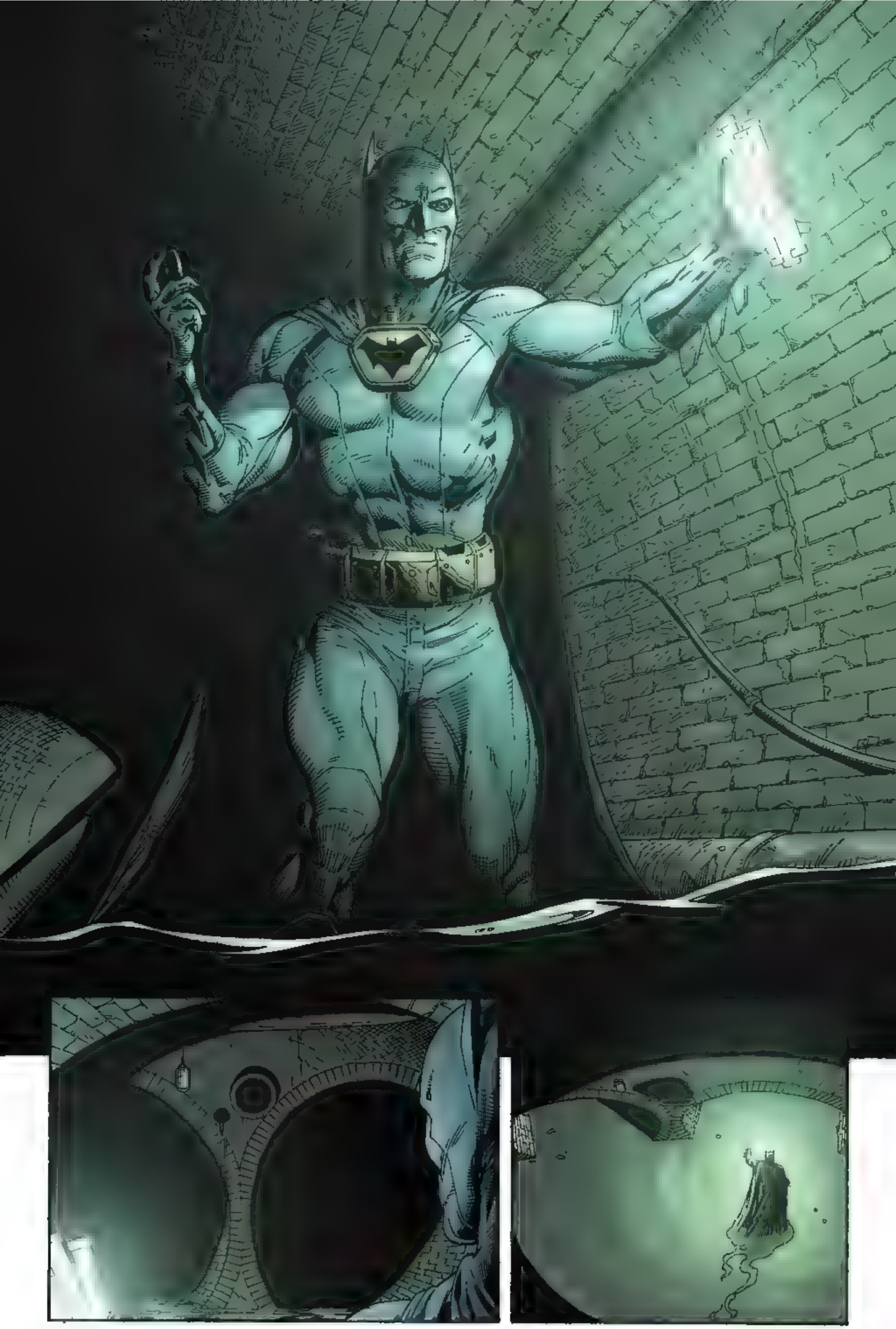
IS BRUCE HERE?

NO.

IT'S MPORTANT I TALK TO HIM, ALFRED.

IT'S VERY IMPORTANT.

"WHERE IS HE?"

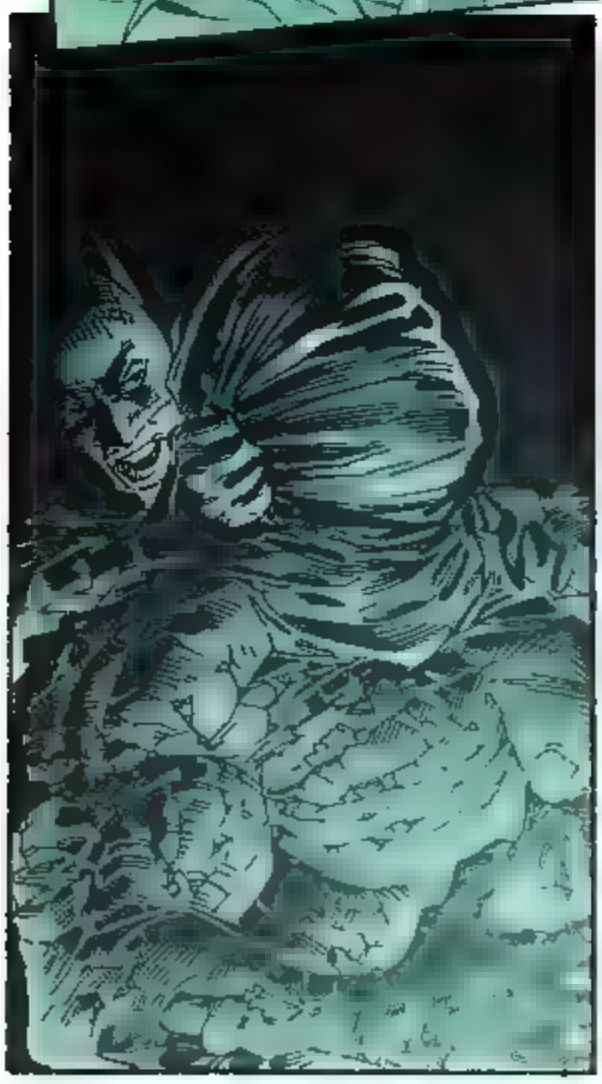


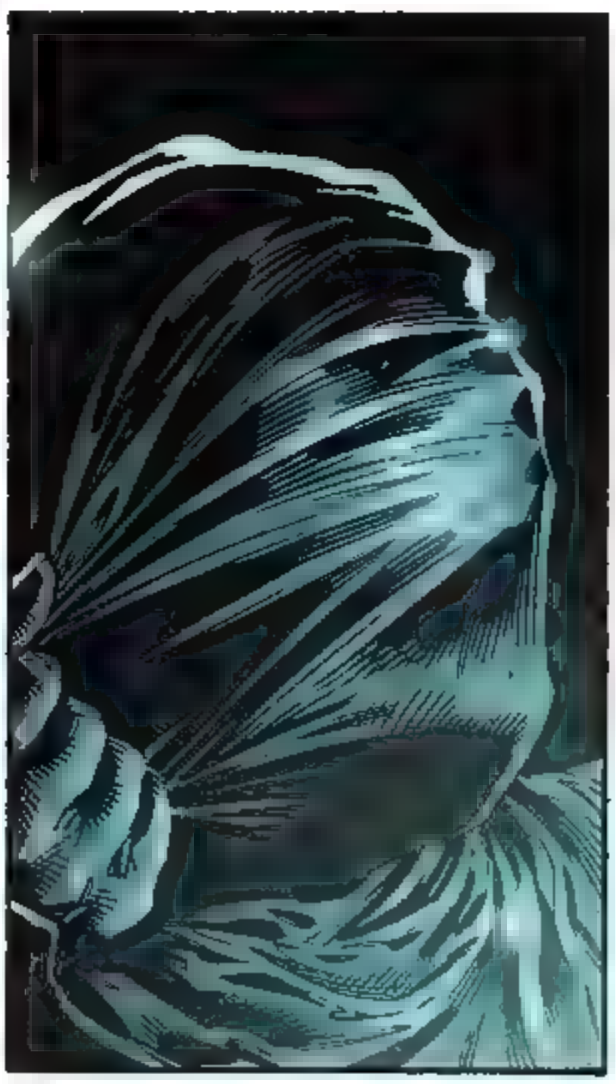
DAMMIT.
BLP

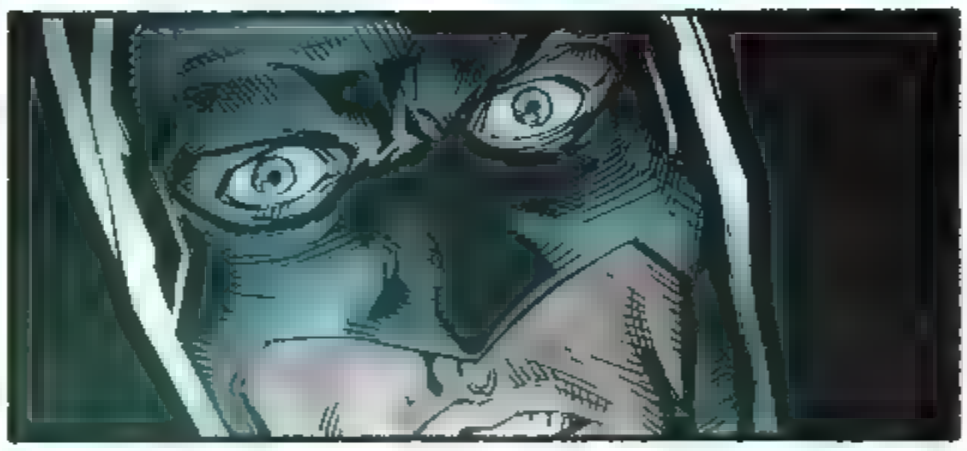
NGFF!

KRRRRRR

KRRRRR







KRRAAA

KLK

FWAK

AARRKGG

SSS!

STOP!

STOP AND LEAVE ME ALONE!

PLEASE... WHOEVER YOU ARE...

.. JUST LEAVE ME ALONE.

LEAVE YOU ALONE? *YOU* WERE THE ONE TRYING TO EAT *ME*.

I DON'T EAT PEOPLE, ASSHOLE, I *AM* ONE. I THOUGHT YOU WERE ANOTHER GOTHAMITE OUT TO SHOOT ME.

THEY ALWAYS SHOOT ME.

OR STAB ME.

JUST GO AWAY.

WHO *ARE* YOU?

LOOK, I DIDN'T COME DOWN HERE LOOKING FOR YOU. WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

...WAYLON JONES.

WHY DO YOU...?

I GOT *ICHTHYOSIS.* IT'S A SKIN CONDITION. I WAS BORN WITH IT AND...THAT'S THAT.

YOUR TEETH?

THE MAN MY MOTHER GAVE ME TO, MR. HALEY, HE FILED THEM DOWN. SO I'D LOOK MORE LIKE THE REPTILE BOY HE WAS SELLING ME AS.

STOP STARING, OKAY?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING DOWN HERE?

I RAN AWAY LAST TIME THE CIRCUS CAME THROUGH TOWN.

WHEN PEOPLE SAW ME, THEY SCREAMED. ALL I WANTED WAS SOMETHING TO EAT, I EVEN HAD THE MONEY TO PAY, BUT THIS MAN AT THE MARKET SHOT ME. IT WAS THE FIRST ONE, RIGHT HERE IN THE SHOULDER.

SO I CAME DOWN HERE. AWAY FROM GOTHAM.

I USED TO LIKE IT DOWN HERE.

IT USED TO BE ALL MINE.

SO YOU'VE SEEN SOMEONE ELSE DOWN HERE?

NOT THE CITY WORKERS OR THE POLICE, BUT SOMEONE ELSE?

THERE'S A MAN IN A GREEN COAT. THAT WHO YOU LOOKING FOR? THE MAN IN THE GREEN COAT?

DO YOU KNOW WHERE HE GOES?

YEAH. I'VE SEEN HIM.

CAN YOU TAKE ME THERE? I HAVE A MAP.

I DON'T NEED A MAP.

NOW CAN I ASK YOU SOMETHING?

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU WEARING?

"BATMAN"?

THAT'S REALLY WHAT YOU WANT ME TO CALL YOU?

WHY DON'T YOU GO TO A CLINIC OR A HOSPITAL TO GET HELP?

WHAT I HAVE IS INCURABLE.

DON'T MATTER.

THIS WAY.

I SHOW YOU WHERE I SAW THIS GUY AND YOU DON'T TELL ANYONE ABOUT ME, RIGHT?

OKAY. HE GOES DOWN THERE. THE TUNNEL CURVES OVER. IT RUNS RIGHT TO THE PROCESSING PLANT. TO GET BACK UP, GO BACK WHERE WE CAME UNTIL YOU SEE THE STORM DRAIN.

IT'LL LEAD YOU TO THE STREET.

WE AGREED ON THAT.

IF YOU EVER DO WANT SOMEONE TO TAKE A LOOK AT YOUR CONDITION...I KNOW SOME PEOPLE.

WAYNE ENTERPRISES HAS A MED CAL--

NO.

I WON'T EVER GO UP THERE AGAIN.

"HAPPY HUNTING, BATMAN."

PHIP

COME ON...

SCREW IT.

CLIK CLIK CLIK

?

IS THAT YOU, BATMAN?

WHO ARE YOU?

ENTER PASSWORD:
?

THAT'S A DIFFICULT QUESTION TO ANSWER, ISN'T IT? WHO WE ARE IS REALLY A MATTER OF PERSPECTIVE.

TO ONE MAN, WE'RE A FRIEND...

...TO ANOTHER AN ENEMY.

AND TO OURSELVES? WHY THAT'S THE QUESTION WE SPEND OUR MEANINGLESS LIVES TRYING TO ANSWER. OR IS IT MEANINGFUL LIVES?

NOW ARE YOU A MADMAN WEARING A MASK AND PARADING ABOUT FOR VALIDATION OF SOME KIND? OR ARE YOU A SELFLESS VIGILANTE TAKING ON THE BURDEN OF PROTECTING GOTHAM AFTER WATCHING IT WALLOW IN ITS CORRUPTION AND DIRT?

ARE YOU BOTH? NEITHER?

ARE YOU THE KILLER OF OSWALD COBBLEPOT OR A MANUFACTURED SCAPEGOAT?

WHO WE REALLY ARE IS THE UNANSWERABLE QUESTION, DON'T YOU THINK?

BATMAN?

THEN DON'T TELL ME WHO YOU ARE. TELL ME *WHY* YOU'RE DOING THIS.

THAT'S A GOOD QUESTION.

Gotham Museum of Art presents

MAGRITTE

GOTHAM CITY MAP

GOTHAM NEEDS AN INQUISITION.

SO I'M ASKING QUESTIONS THAT I DON'T WANT ANSWERS TO.

THOSE IN THE GOTHAM TOWERS AND AT THE MUSEUM SOIREE ARE VAMPIRES SUCKING THE BLOOD OUT OF THIS CITY. I'M PUTTING A STAKE IN THEM.

IS THIS BATMAN?

SEE, WHO I AM DEPENDS ON YOUR POINT OF VIEW. FROM THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN USED AND FORGOTTEN, LOST IN THE ALLEYS AND CRYING IN THE MORGUES OVER VICTIMS CAUGHT IN THE CROSSFIRE, I COULD BE SEEN AS GOTHAM'S SAVIOR.

BUT MAYBE I DON'T *CARE* ABOUT GOTHAM.

MAYBE I'M JUST SOMEONE WHO LIKES TO SEE FEAR IN PEOPLE'S EYES AS THEY SEARCH FOR AN ANSWER.

WAS IT A WASTED LIFE OR A MEANINGFUL ONE?

IS THERE *ANYTHING* AFTER *DEATH*?

THE *ULTIMATE* RIDDLE.

I SUPPOSE YOU CAN CALL ME *THE RIDDLER.*

YOU'RE STILL HERE, AREN'T YOU?

NNT!

THAT SHOULD'VE BEEN THE FIRST QUESTION YOU ASKED.

I AM CLOSE BY. AS ALWAYS.

NOW HOW ABOUT YOU PLAY ALONG THIS TIME, BATMAN?

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

MY NEXT *RIDDLE.*

"I'VE RIGGED THE FIRST CLASS CAR OF THE GOTHAM L-TRAIN WITH ENOUGH EXPLOSIVES TO KILL EVERYONE ON BOARD.

"AND I'LL BE SETTING THEM OFF IF MY QUESTION ISN'T ANSWERED CORRECTLY."

DON'T BOTHER TRYING TO CALL ANYONE. AS I'M SURE YOU ALREADY KNOW, THERE'S NO SERVICE DOWN HERE EXCEPT FOR MINE.

DON'T DO THIS.

I WON'T IF YOU WIN. SO HERE'S THE DEAL, BATMAN. TAKE MY RADIO WITH YOU. I'LL GIVE YOU DIRECTIONS TO THE TRAIN, WHICH IS EN ROUTE, AND ONCE YOU GET THERE I'LL ASK MY QUESTION.

IF YOU ANSWER CORRECTLY, THE EXPLOSIVES STAY QUIET.

IF YOU DON'T... *BOOM.*

GO.

GO OR I'LL SET THE DAMN THING OFF RIGHT NOW.

RUN, BATMAN, RUN!

F14

YES. THE NEXT LEFT AND THEN RIGHT.

AND THEN I'D STOP RATHER QUICKLY.

YOU SEE?

WELL, WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?

JUMP!

YOU'RE AT THE SCENE OF THE WOULD-BE CRIME, BATMAN, SO LET ME ASK YOU AND THE PEOPLE OF THE FIRST CLASS CAR. .

...I'M THE PART OF THE BAT THAT'S NOT IN THE SKY. I CAN SWIM IN A LAKE IN THE MOONLIGHT AND YET REMAIN DRY. WHAT AM I?

YOU HAVE SIXTY SECONDS TO ANSWER OR I BLOW YOU UP.

ANY IDEAS?

LET ME REPEAT THE QUESTION.

I'M THE PART OF THE BAT THAT'S NOT IN THE SKY. I CAN SWIM IN A LAKE IN THE MOONLIGHT AND YET REMAIN DRY.

WHAT AM I?

I KNOW.

A SHADOW.

FIRST CLASS

DO YOU HEAR ME, RIDDLER?

I GAVE YOU THE ANSWER. YOU'RE A SHADOW.

RIDDLER?

"I SAW THE BATMAN."

"HE PULLED ME OUT.

"AND THEN HE STARTED HELPING WHOEVER HE COULD UNTIL YOU GOT HERE."

"DID HE SAY ANYTHING?"

"HE SAID HE WAS GOING TO FIND WHO DID THIS."

A GODDAMN *BOMB* WENT OFF IN THE *SUBWAY*, BULLOCK.

WHERE ARE YOU?

THIS SN'T A GAME TO H.M.

BATMAN?

IT NEVER WAS.

YOU'RE *BLEEDING.* YOU NEED TO GET TO A HOSPITAL--

THE RIDDLER...THAT'S WHAT TH.S MAN.AC CALLED HIMSE_F...HE TOLD ME HE WAS GOING TO B_OW THE TRAIN UP UNLESS I ANSWERED HIS QUESTION.

I *DID* ANSWER IT. I GAVE H M THE ANSWER.

THEN HE BLEW IT UP ANYWAY.

THERE WERE *FAMILIES* ON THAT TRAIN.

KIDS.

HE MURDERED KIDS.

MOTHERS AND FATHERS.

JUST TAKE A SECOND--

NO. HE'S GOING TO DO THIS AGAIN. WE HAVE TO STOP HIM.

I FOUND THE RIDDLER'S SAFEHOUSE IN THE SEWERS. HE'D RIGGED IT WITH EXPLOSIVES. EVERYTHING WAS INCINERATED.

EXCEPT THIS.

WHAT IS IT?

IT'S A MAP OF GOTHAM. FOUR WORDS WRITTEN ON IT.

"CRANE. DRAKE. PIERCE. BLACK."

I THINK THEY'RE NAMES.

NAMES?

WHAT IF THESE MASS KILLINGS AREN'T WHAT THEY LOOK LIKE?

FIVE PEOPLE TOOK CONTROL OF COBBLEPOT'S EMPIRE AFTER HE DIED.

DO YOU HAVE A LIST OF VICTIMS FROM THE ELEVATOR AND THE MUSEUM?

ON MY PHONE.

AND CAN YOU GET THE NAMES OF EVERYONE ON THE TRAIN?

AS SOON AS THEY'RE IDENTIFIED. WHAT ARE YOU PUTTING TOGETHER THAT I'M NOT?

THE RIDDLER DIDN'T CARE IF I ANSWERED HIS QUESTION OR NOT.

I DON'T THINK THESE ARE RANDOM ACTS OF VIOLENCE DONE BY SOME LUNATIC.

I THINK THE RIDDLER'S ALL AN ACT TO COVER UP THE REAL MURDERS.

HE'S KILLING MANY TO HIDE ONE.

CROSS-REFERENCE THE LIST OF VICTIMS WITH THE NAMES ON THE MAP. I'M BETTING YOU'LL MATCH ONE OF THEM TO EACH ATTACK. AND I'M BETTING EACH OF THOSE PEOPLE WORKS FOR THE CITY.

YOU THINK THE RIDDLER'S ONE OF THE *FIVE*... TAKING THE OTHER *FOUR* OUT?

YES.

MAYBE I WAS WRONG.

MAYBE YOU'D MAKE A GOOD DETECTIVE AFTER ALL.

ONE MORE THING...

...WHEN YOU FIND SOMETHING OUT, YOU CAN CALL ME WITH THIS.

A CELL PHONE WITH ONE BUTTON?

A BAT SIGNAL.

CHRIST.

HE ACTUALLY PUT A BAT ON IT.

THIS WAS SENT TO MY OFFICE EARLIER TODAY.

AND YOU OPENED IT?

AFTER I MADE SURE IT WASN'T TICKING.

BLIMEY, JESS. YOU SHOULD'VE CALLED THE BOMB SQUAD OR SOMETHIN'.

I CAN'T TRUST ANYONE WITH THIS, ALFRED.

"I'LL STOP ASKING QUESTIONS IF YOU ARREST HIM."

I'LL STOP ASKING QUESTIONS IF YOU ARREST HIM

ARREST WHO?

BATMAN.

?

BATMAN? WHAT DOES HE WANT WITH BATMAN...?

...AND WHY COME HERE WITH THIS?

ALFRED...

RING

HARVEY DENT

DECLINE ANSWER

HELLO, HARVEY.

...

WHAT? SLOW DOWN. WHAT ARE YOU...?

OH, MY GOD.

THERE'S BEEN ANOTHER EXPLOS ON.

WHAT?

TELL BRUCE I'LL BE BACK.

ALFRED...

BRUCE? WHAT HAPPENED?

BRUCE?!

I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU WERE STAND NG AS LONG AS YOU WERE WITH A *FOUR-INCH PIECE OF SHRAPNEL* IN YOUR SIDE. I *TOLD* YOU, YOU NEED SOME KIND OF *BODY ARMOR.*

SO YOJ GAVE ALL TH S INFORMATION ON THE R DDLER AND HIS V CTIMS TO THE COP?

ARE YOU DONE?

TO DETECTIVE GORDON, YES.

F JESSICA DOESN'T KNOW, SHE SUSPECTS.

AND IF SHE KNOWS, OTHERS COULD TOO. *LIKE* DETECTIVE GORDON.

OR THE RIDDLER.

WHOEVER THE HEL- HE IS.

THIS ISN'T GOOD, BRUCE.

LUCIUS SENT THE NEW SUIT OVER?

LUCIUS FOX. THERE'S *ANOTHER* ONE. YOU HEAR WHAT I'M SAYING, BOY? TOO MANY PEOPLE KNOW.

THAT'S WHY I HAD TO SHOOT COBBLEPOT.

YOU TOLD ME YOU SHOT HIM BECAUSE YOU THOUGHT HE WAS GOING TO KILL ME.

AND I DID...

...YOU CANNOT TELL JESSICA. YOU HAVE TO FIGURE OUT SOME WAY TO GET HER OFF THE TRAIL--

I NEED TO TELL HER SO SHE CAN HELP US FIND THE RIDDLER.

YOU CAN'T HAVE HER *AND* BATMAN, BRUCE.

YOU MADE THAT CHOICE A LONG TIME AGO, NOT *ME*.

YOU'RE NOT A *MAN* ANYMORE.

YOU'RE A *WEAPON*.

IS THAT WHAT YOU TURNED ME INTO?

THAT'S WHAT YOU *ASKED* TO BE TURNED INTO.

WEAPONS ARE DESIGNED TO *HURT* PEOPLE. YOU DON'T WANT TO HURT *HER*.

VZZD

BATMAN?

I'VE MATCHED THE NAMES.

AND SOMETHING *ELSE*...

"...I HAVE A WAY WE CAN *FIND* THE R'DDLER."

FMP

HOW LONG HAVE YOU KNOWN?

S.NCE THE MOMENT YOJ TOLD ME YOU THOUGHT BATMAN WAS A SYMBOL OF HOPE FOR THE CITY.

ONLY *HE* WOULD THINK THAT.

I'M TRYING TO HELP GOTHAM.

BY DRESSING UP AND BEATING THE HELL OUT OF DEALERS AND STREET THUGS?

THAT'S NOT HELPING ANYONE BUT *YOU* VENT YOUR ANGER, BRUCE.

I'M *BEYOND* ANGRY.

I MADE A VOW ON MY PARENTS' GRAVES TO TAKE DOWN THEIR KILLER AND THE MAN WHO ORCHESTRATED IT-- MAYOR COBBLEPOT.

BUT IN THE END, COBBLEPOT HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THEIR MURDERS.

I STILL DON'T KNOW WHO DID IT. I PROBABLY NEVER WILL.

SO WHAT'S THE *LIFE PLAN* HERE, BRUCE? I LOVED YOUR PARENTS TOO. WHEN WE WERE KIDS, THEY WELCOMED ME INTO YOUR HOME AND THEIR HEARTS.

THEY WERE BETTER TO ME THAN MY OWN PARENTS EVER WERE.

I WAS DEVASTATED WHEN THEY DIED.

AND AGAIN WHEN OUR RELATIONSHIP DID.

I THOUGHT YOU NEEDED TIME TO FOCUS ON WHAT TO DO WITH YOUR LIFE.

BUT I NEVER IMAGINED YOU WOULD THINK *"BATMAN"* WAS THE *ANSWER.*

DOES THE PERSON BEHIND THESE ATTACKS KNOW WHO YOU ARE? IS THAT WHY THEY'RE TRYING TO FORCE ME TO SEND THE POLICE AFTER YOU?

NO, I THINK THE RIDDLER'S ALL ABOUT *DISTRACTIONS,* JESSICA.

"CLARISSA CRANE FROM THE HOUSING COMMISSION WAS ON THE ELEVATOR.

"JACK DRAKE FROM THE CITY COUNCIL KILLED IN THE MUSEUM FIRE.

"ALVIN PIERCE FROM PUBLIC WORKS ON THE SUBWAY."

HOW DO YOU KNOW ALL THIS?

A DETECTIVE NAMED JAMES GORDON.

THE DEPARTMENT MIGHT BE CORRUPT TO THE CORE, BUT GORDON IS SOMEONE YOU CAN TRUST.

"ACCORDING TO THE CITY TREASURER, EACH ONE OF THE VICTIMS HAD AN OFFSHORE *ACCOUNT* THAT WAS DRAINED THE DAY THEY *DIED*."

DRAINED TO A COMPANY CALLED *ANSWERS, INC.*

RINGG

COME ON, GORDO.

IT'S *TEN* P.M. THIS TIME I KNOW I'M OFF-DUTY.

YOU WANT TO BE A COP WHO REALLY MAKES A CHANGE IN GOTHAM; THERE *IS* NO OFF-DUTY.

WE'RE TOO CLOSE TO CATCHING THIS GUY.

NO; ***YOU*** ARE. YOU AND THE BATMAN.

YOU DON'T NEED ME.

*YOU TAUGHT ME TO FIGHT BACK WHEN I WAS TURNING A BLIND EYE TO COBBLEPOT. NOW I'M HERE TO HELP **YOU** FIGHT BACK.*

BECAUSE I DO NEED YOU, BULLOCK.

*I NEED MY DAMNED **PARTNER.***

LET ME GET MY COAT.

THAT'S NOT... IT CAN'T BE.

WHAT?

BATMAN GAVE ME A COMPANY OWNED BY THE K LLER, BUT HE NEEDED HELP FINDING A NAME ***BEHIND*** IT--

--SO I ASKED MY DAUGHTER TO SEE WHAT SHE COULD DIG UP, G.VEN HER APTITUDE FOR COMPUTERS.

AND BY GOD, SHE FOUND IT. THIS COMPANY. ANSWERS INCORPORATED..

.. IT'S OWNED BY *BRUCE WAYNE.*

YOU WANTED AN *ANSWER,* DETECTIVE GORDON. LET'S GIVE YOU THE MAYOR'S *WHITE KNIGHT.*

WE'RE GOING TO NEED A WARRANT, DENT.

A WARRANT FOR *WHAT?*

I'M SORRY I DIDN'T TELL YOU, JESSICA.

I DON'T WANT YOU GETTING HURT ANYMORE BECAUSE OF *ME.*

THEN DON'T SHUT ME OUT.

WE SHARED THE LOVE...WE SHARE THE PAIN.

TWO SIDES OF THE SAME THING, BRUCE.

WE HAVE A *WARRANT* TO SEARCH THE PREMISES.

HEY! I GOTTA READ THAT!

WHERE'S BRUCE WAYNE?

YOU'RE GORDON, RIGHT?

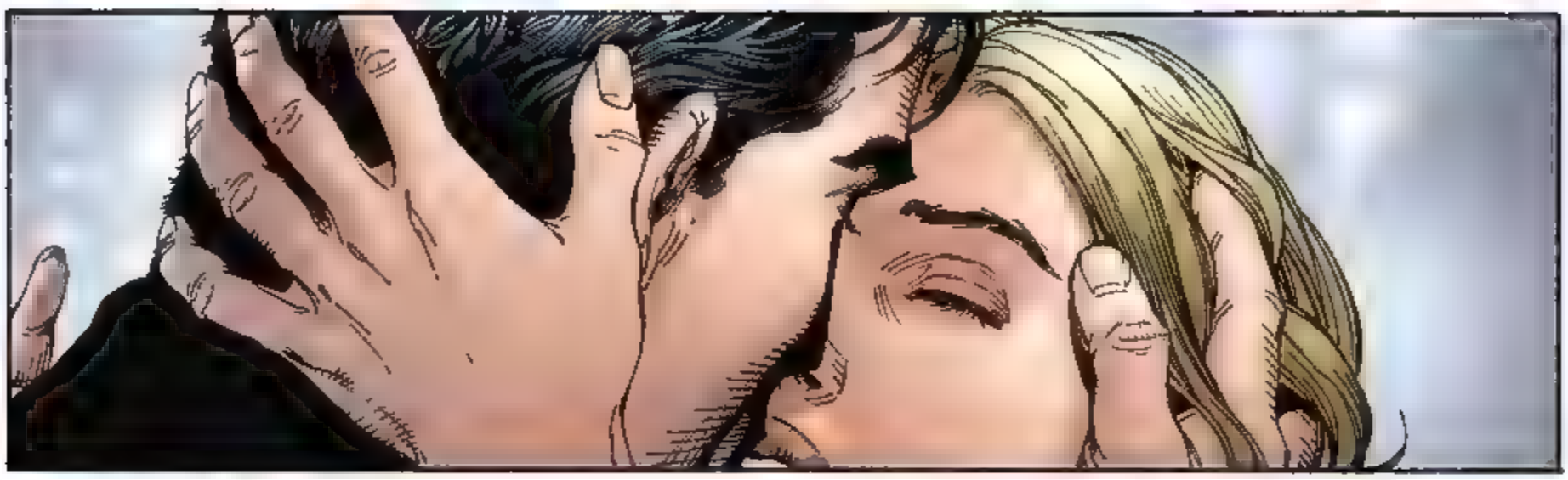
YEAH, I'M DETECTIVE GORDON.

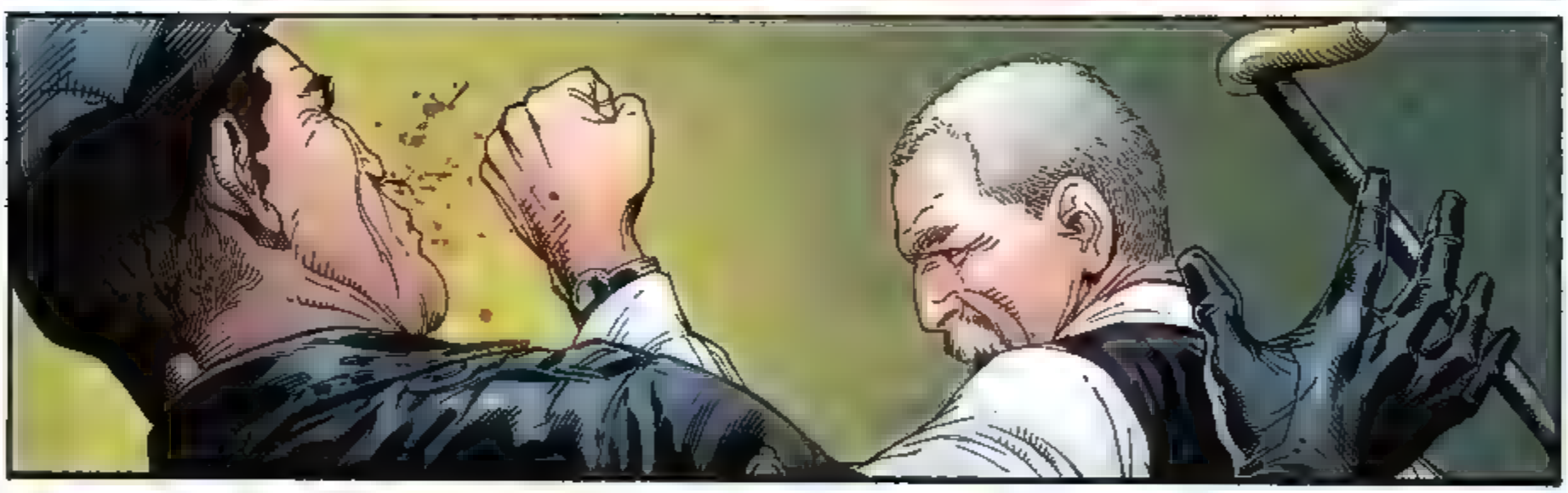
I TOLD HIM...

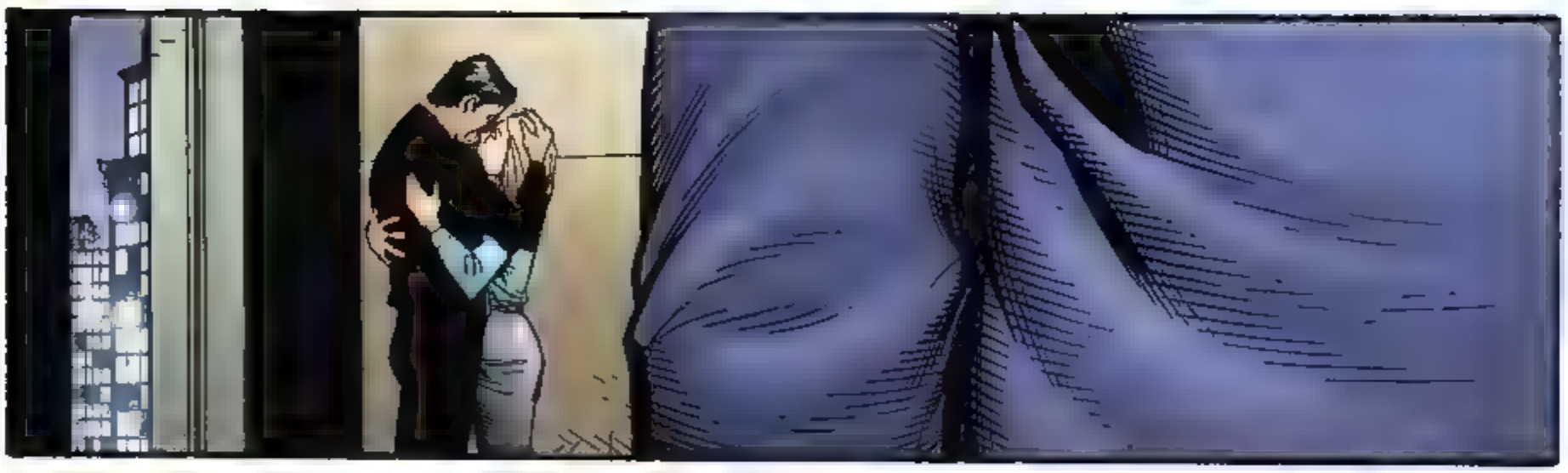
...NOT TO...

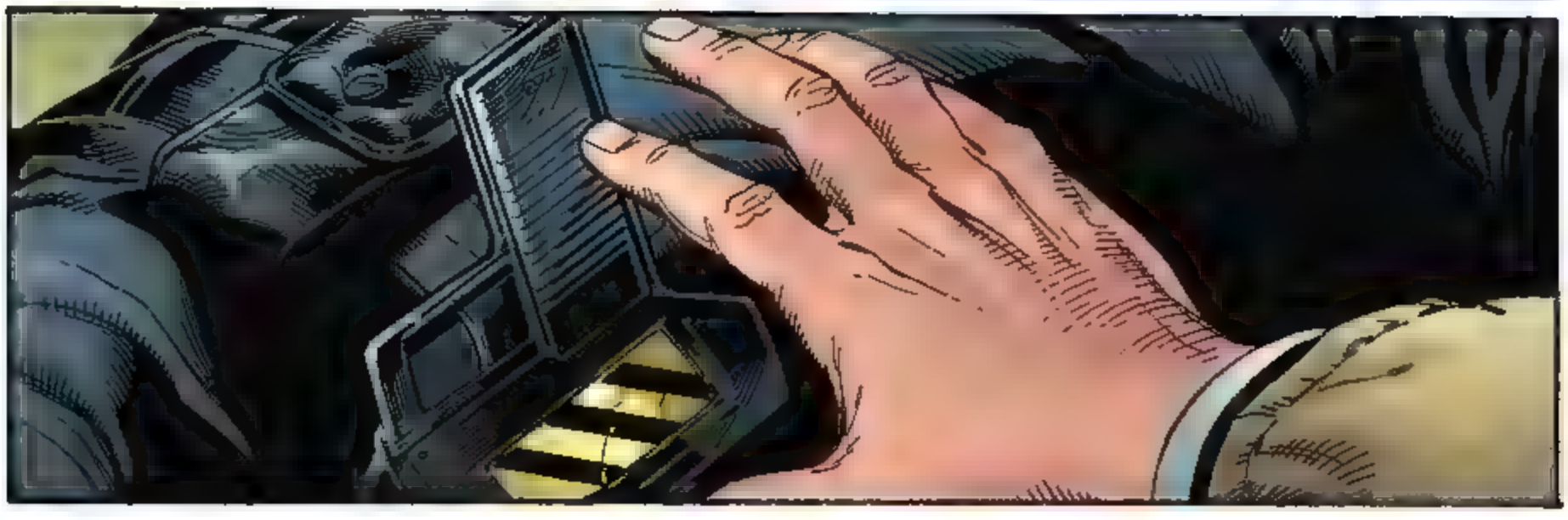
...TRUST...

...THESE BLOODY COPS!



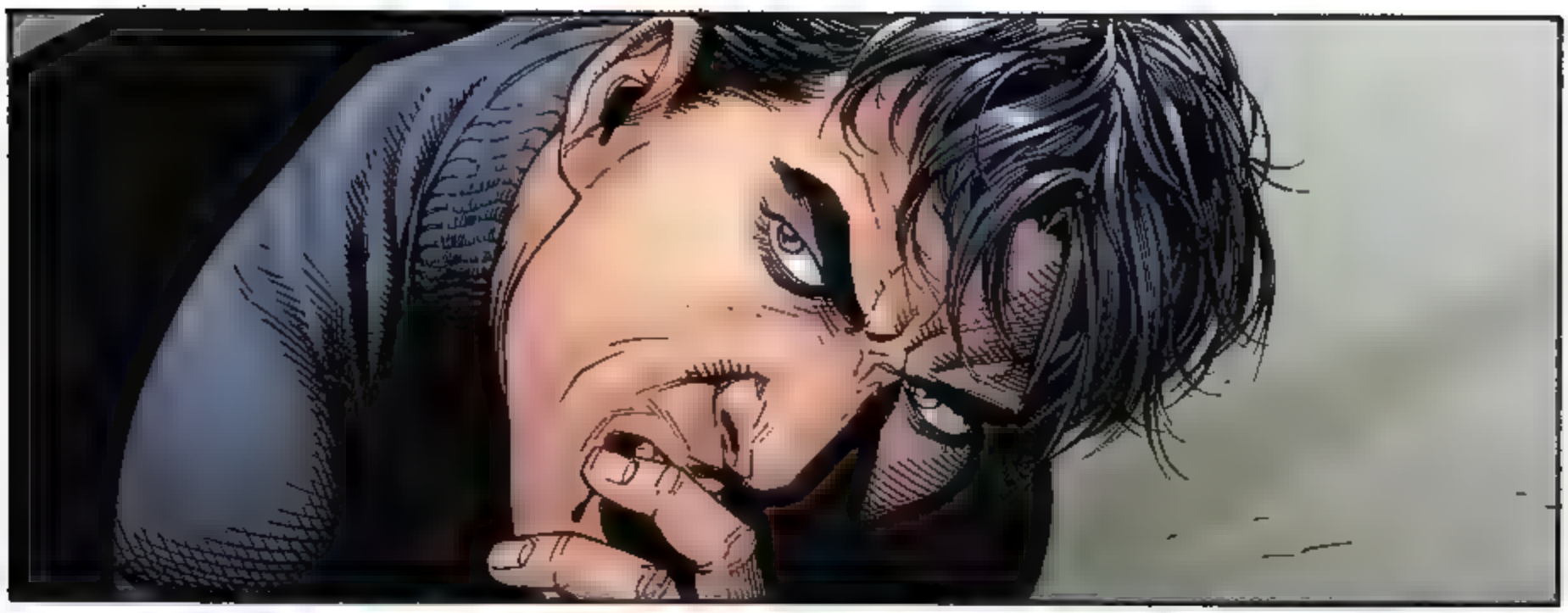






HEY, WAYNE!

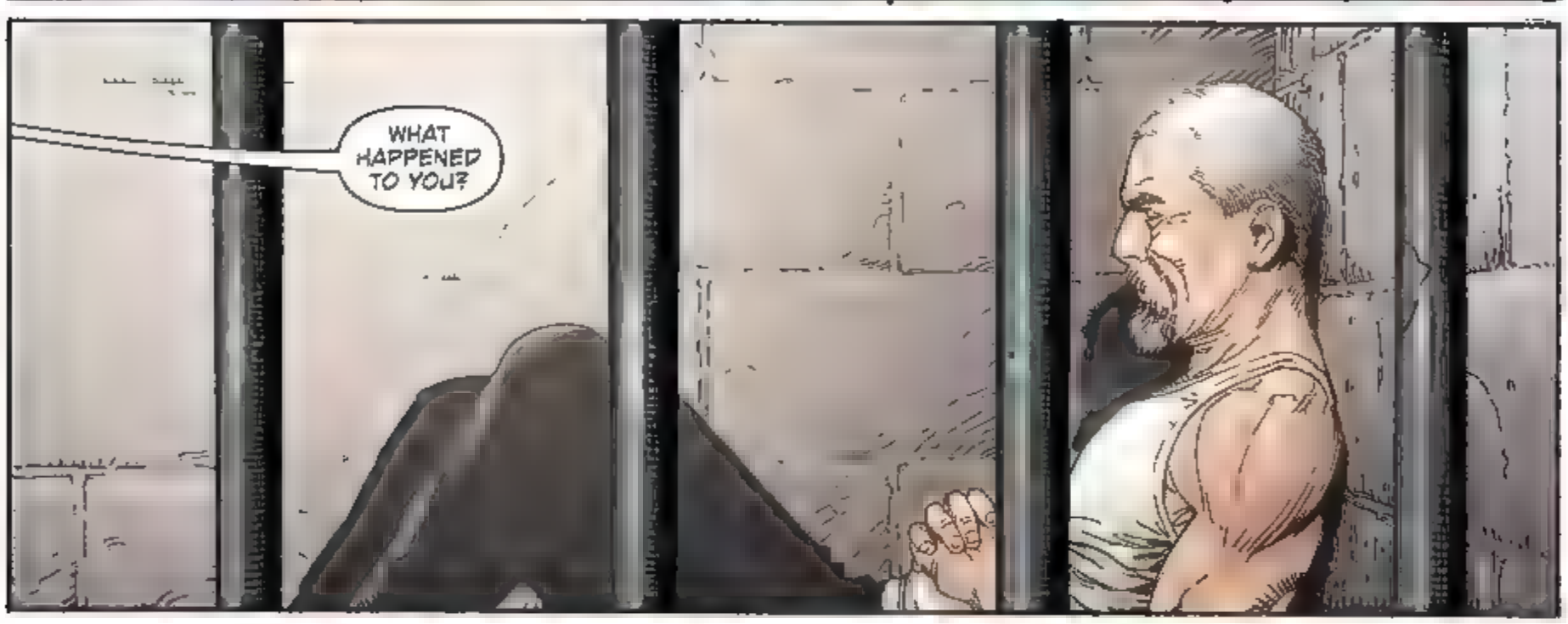
STAY THE HELL AWAY FROM MY SISTER.



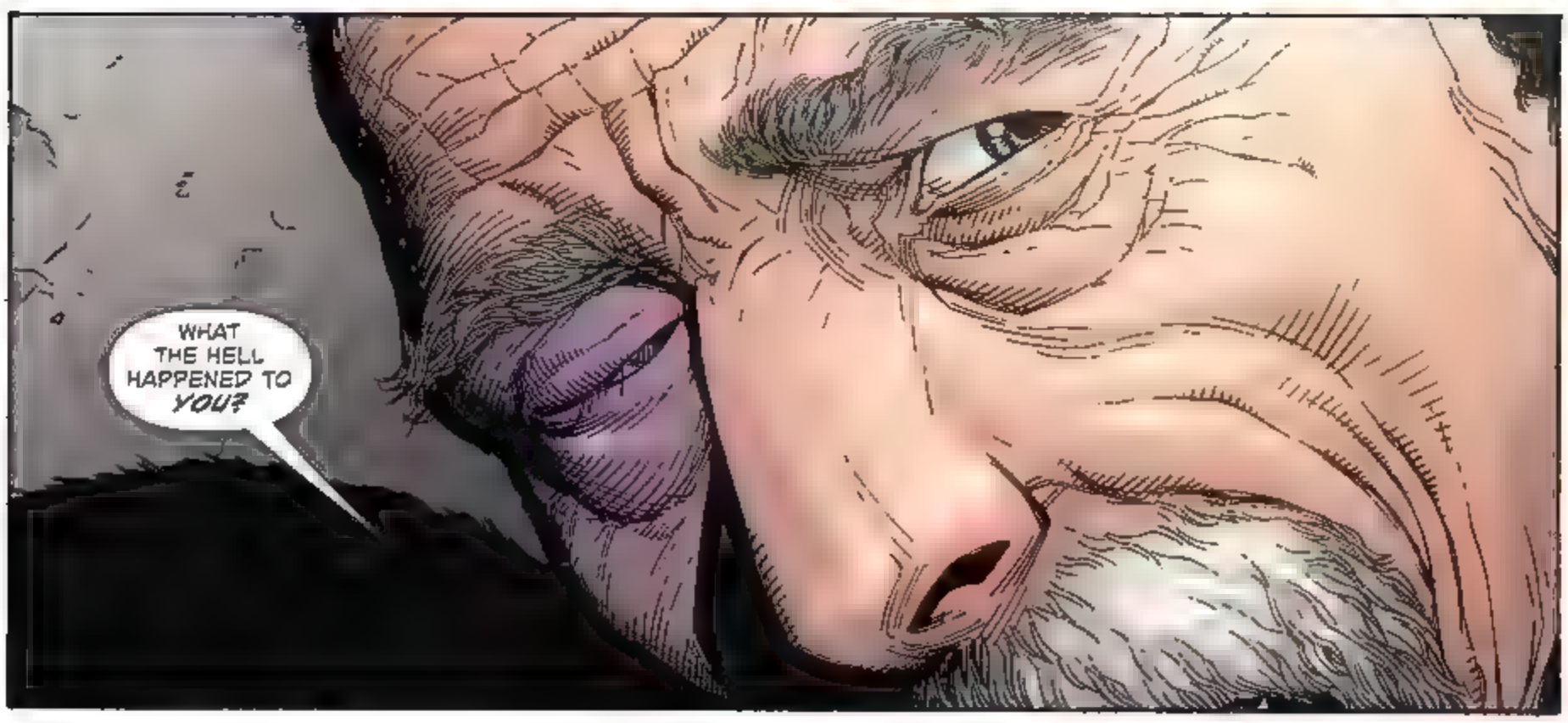
P.D.
"IT'S TIME."

FOR ONE FINAL RIDDLE.

GOTHAM CITY POLICE


WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?

ME?


WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED TO YOU?

JESSICA AND I WERE IN HER OFFICE TALKING ABOUT THE CASE AND...THINGS HAPPENED.

AND HARVEY DENT SAW US.

GOOD FOR YOU, BOY.

BUT WHY AREN'T YOU BEHIND BARS, TOO?

I DIDN'T HIT HARVEY BACK.

BRUCE, YOU DO ***KNOW*** GORDON CAME TO THE MANOR. HE MUST'VE FIGURED OUT WHAT WE'VE BEEN DOING.

I TOLD YOU THAT YOU COULDN'T TRUST HIM.

GORDON AND THE OTHERS DIDN'T COME TO THE MANOR BECAUSE OF ***BATMAN,*** ALFRED. THE RIDDLER LEFT A TRAIL FROM THE ACCOUNTS OF HIS VICTIMS THAT POINTED TO ME.

YOU? ***WHY?***

I THINK HE KNEW JESSICA CAME TO ME FOR MY HELP SOMEHOW.

OR MAYBE HE ***KNOWS.***

BRUCE WAYNE IS *NOT* THE RIDDLER, HARVEY.

HOW DO WE KNOW THAT, JESS? HE'S A LONER. HE'S AN *ARKHAM.* AND WE ALL KNOW THE RICH ALWAYS WANT TO GET RICHER.

THAT'S ABSOLUTELY RIDICULOUS.

WE WERE *WITH* BRUCE WHEN THE MUSEUM WAS ATTACKED.

I WANT HIM TAKEN TO INTERROGATION, CAPTAIN. RIGHT NOW.

YOU NEED TO GO.

I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE, ALFRED.

THAT CASE WITH YOUR NEW SUIT THAT LUCIUS GAVE YOU?

THE POLICE HAVE IT *HERE,* BRUCE.

"AND THOSE LOCKS ARE ONLY GOING TO KEEP 'EM OUT FOR SO LONG."

WAYNE! WE HAVE SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU--

HARVEY, *STOP* THIS!

VVVVVVVVVVVVVVVVVVVV

THE POWER'S OUT.

THANKS TO ME.

GOOD EVENING, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

OFFICERS.

MR. DISTRICT ATTORNEY. MAYOR DENT.

MR. WAYNE.

GO, BRUCE.

I'M GOING TO ASK YOU ALL A RIDDLE.

IF YOU ANSWER IT CORRECTLY WITHIN SIXTY SECONDS, THE POWER COMES BACK ON AND I GO BACK TO MY GAME OF SOLITAIRE.

BUT IF YOU GET IT WRONG, THE ENTIRE POLICE STATION WILL BE TURNED INTO RUBBLE AND YOU ALL WITH IT.

BEFORE I ASK MY QUESTION, HOWEVER.

LET'S MAKE THIS INTERESTING.

KLANK

KLANK

BLIMEY.

HEY, MARON! GATES ARE OPEN.

I WANT HARVEY DENT.

STAY BEHIND ME, JESS.CA.

EVERYONE, KEEP THE MAYOR *SAFE!*

YOU SEE NOW.

THIS WILL BE A TRUE TEST OF CONCENTRATION.

PENNYWORTH?

WATCH AND LEARN, GORDON.

RIDDLE ME THIS, EVERYONE.

THAT ALL YOU GOT?

CHAK

NO.

BATMAN?

YOU'RE HERE?

KLANK

WELL, THIS IS A NICE SURPRISE.

YOU CAN PLAY TOO.

THERE'S A CRIMINAL IN A CELL, WANTING TO LEAVE, BUT THERE ARE NO WINDOWS OR CRACKS IN THE WALLS. HE HAS NO TOOLS AND THE DOOR TO HIS CELL IS FIVE INCHES OF SOLID STEEL.

BUT HE STILL ESCAPES.

WE CAN GET TO THE ROOF, JESS. GO DOWN THE FIRE ESCAPE.

YOU HAVE SIXTY SECONDS TO TELL ME HOW.

B

FIFTY-NINE SECONDS.

COME ON, JESS!

BRUCE S DOWN THERE. ALFRED.

AND WE'LL GET HELP ONCE I GET YOU OUT OF--

--NNK.

HARVEY?

I'M CUTTING A DEAL, DENT. LITERALLY.

TWENTY SECONDS.

BATMAN, THE ANSWER--

"THE DOOR WASN'T LOCKED." BUT IT DOESN'T MATTER IF WE ANSWER IT.

HE'S GO NG TO BLOW THE PRECINCT UP ANYWAY.

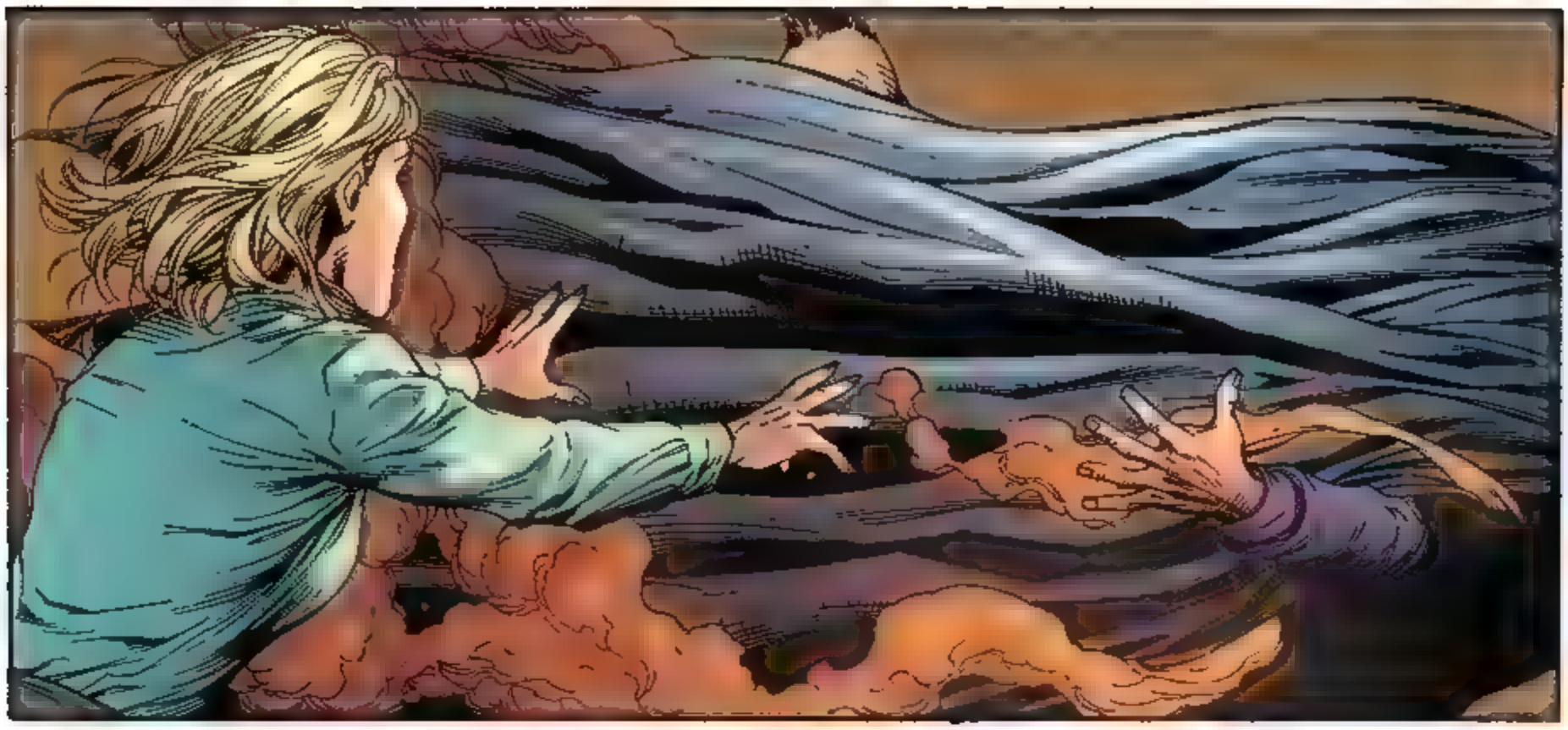
MARONI'S GOT THE D.A.!

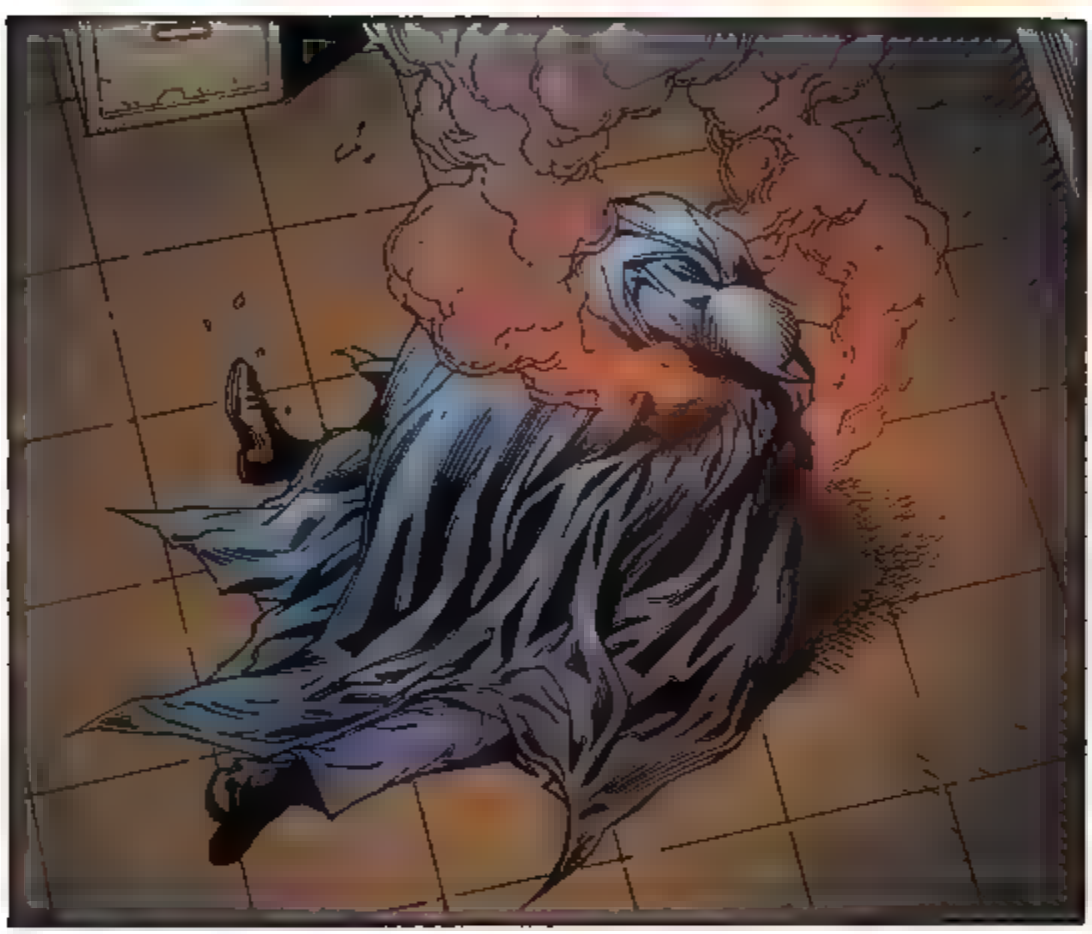
SCREW YOU, DENT!

HARVEY!

JESS CA?

HISKEY
HARVEY!





NO.

HARVEY!

DON'T LET ME DIE

SSSK

YOU HAVE TEN SECONDS.

JESSICA. WE NEED TO GO NOW!

GET YOUR HANDS *OFF* ME.

HE'S *DEAD!* MY BROTHER'S

cough

HE'S GONE

EIGHT SECONDS.

SEVEN SECONDS.

KFFF

SIX SECONDS.

YOU'RE GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT.

JUST BREATHE.

FIVE.

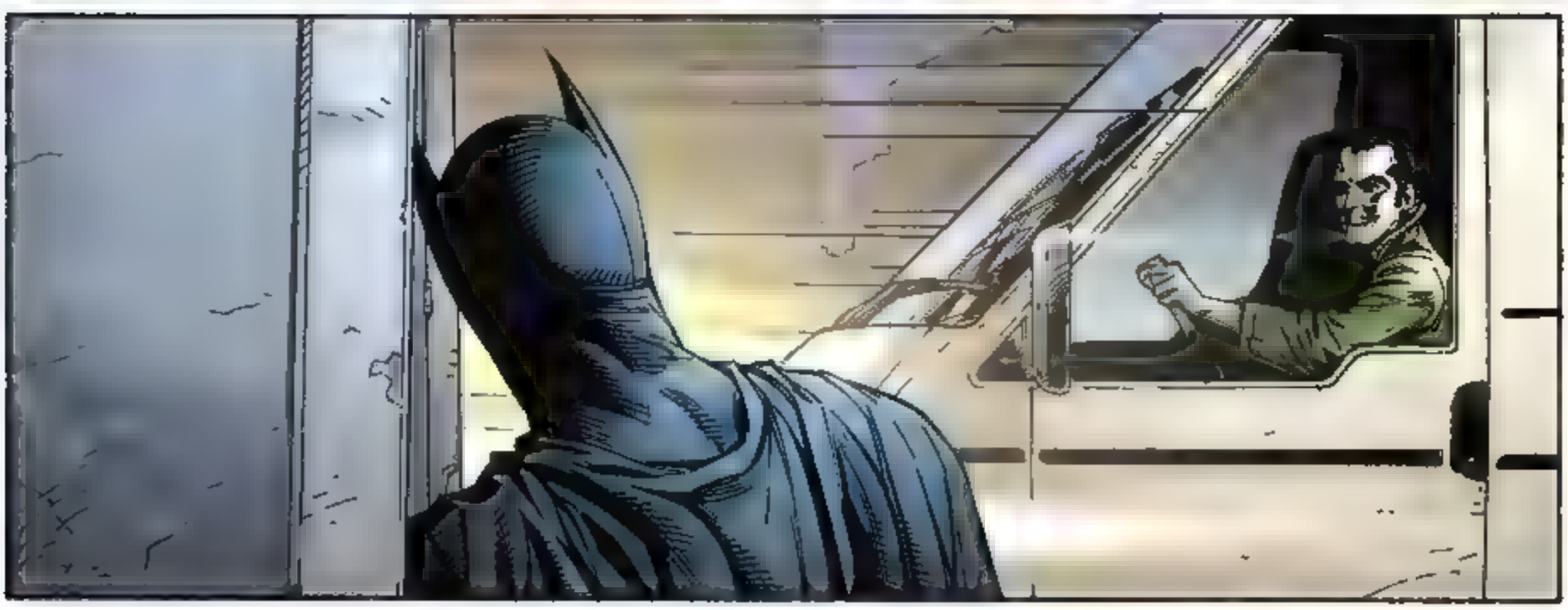
CON & DRUM LAUNDRY

WE NEED A *MEDIC* OVER HERE!

OH.

YOU GOT ME, BATMAN.

ALMOST.
NAILS
NAILS



IT'S BEEN FUN, BUT THE GAME'S OVER.

AS SOON AS I DETONATE THAT BOMB, THAT **POLICE STATION**--AND EVERY SINGLE PERSON WHO KNOWS ANYTHING ABOUT ME, YOURSELF INCLUDED-- WILL BE **GONE.**

AND THEN SO WILL **I.**

VROOOOOMMM

SKREEE

I HAVE A **RIDDLE** FOR **YOU,** RIDDLER.

Hm?

THERE ARE TWO CARS THAT LEAVE THE GOTHAM POLICE DEPARTMENT, ONE **FIVE SECONDS** AFTER THE OTHER, BOTH TRAVELING AT APPROXIMATELY SIXTY MILES AN HOUR.

THE ONE IN FRONT HAS A **TRIGGER** TO A **BOMB** CARRIED IN THE SECOND CAR.

THE CARS ARE WITHIN **HALF A CITY BLOCK** OF ONE ANOTHER.

WHAT HAPPENS TO *BOTH* CARS WHEN THAT TR GGER IS FL PPED?

YOU WANT THE ANSWER?

I *KNOW* THE ANSWER, BATMAN.

GETT NG AHEAD OF YOU BY *ONE CITY BLOCK* IS THE ANSWER.

THEN I CAN MAKE YOU GO BOOM.

CON & DRUM LAUNDRY

OOOOO! WATCH THOSE CORNERS, BATMAN!

YOUR CARGO IS VERY DELICATE. YOU DON'T SLOW DOWN, YOU COULD BE THE LATEST VICTIM OF THE RIDDLER.

THE TERROR OF GOTHAM!

"THE TERROR OF GOTHAM"? YOU?

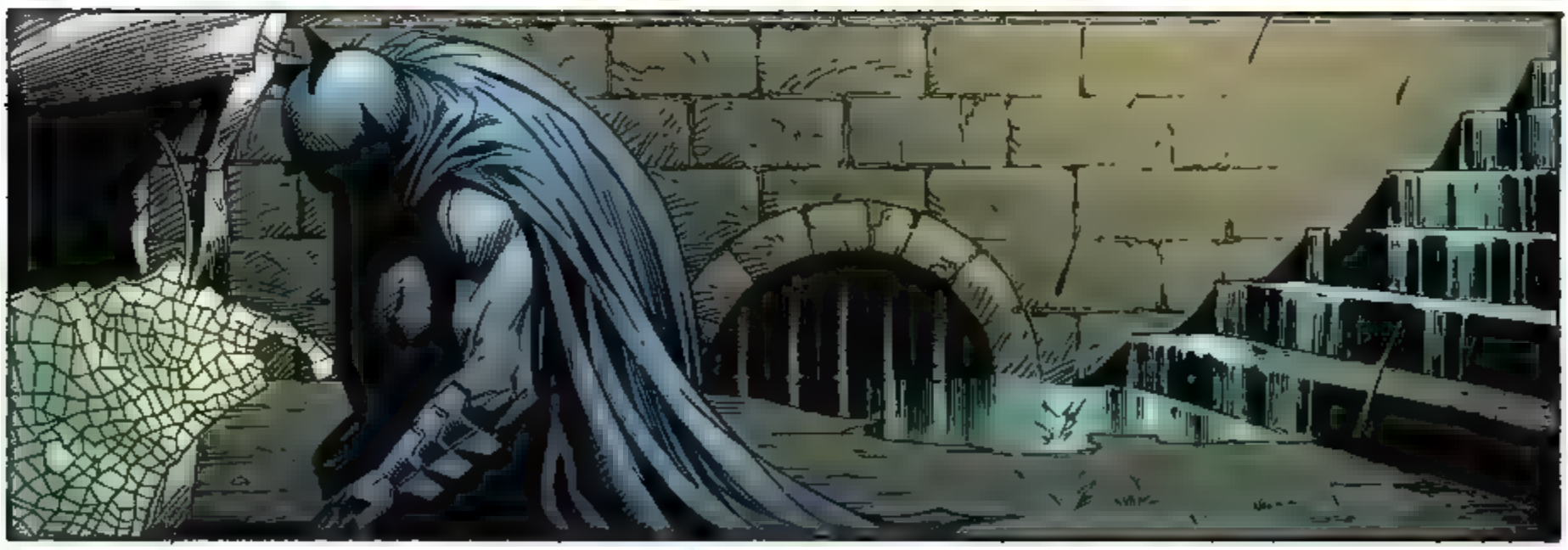
YOU'VE TRIED TO CONCEAL THESE MURDERS BY BU LD NG YOURSELF INTO SOMETHING BIGGER THAN YOU ARE.

BUT YOU'RE NO TERROR.

CUT & DRUM
LAUNDRY

THE RIDDLER IS A LIE.

THE RIDDLER IS NOTHING.



YOU THINK I'M NOTHING?

WHO ARE YOU?

BLAM

YOU'LL NEVER KNOW THE ANSWER.

IT'S *OVER.*

NO! LET'S ANSWER THE *ULTIMATE RIDDLE* TOGETHER.

IS THERE *ANYTHING* AFTER *DEATH?*

AAHHH!!

RRORRR!

BZAMM

BLAM BLAM BLAM

NOW WE DIE, TOO!

WAYLON?

I... SAW THE POLICE FINDING THE BODIES IN THE SUBWAY. I SHOULDA DONE SOMETHING BEFORE WHEN HE WAS IN THE SEWERS...

...G...

...I DIDN'T WANT TO GO BACK DOWN THERE ANYWAY.

KK

"THE RIDDLER, WHOSE TRUE IDENTITY HAS YET TO BE VERIFIED, HAS BEEN CHARGED IN THE DEATHS OF 43 PEOPLE THIS WEEK..."

...WHILE CRIMINAL *SAL MARONI* HAS BEEN CHARGED WITH THE MURDER OF *DISTRICT ATTORNEY HARVEY DENT* WHO WAS KILLED DURING THE *RIOTS* INSIDE THE GOTHAM CITY CENTRAL POLICE DEPARTMENT.

AS THE RIDDLER'S *TRUE MOTIVATIONS* ARE UNCOVERED, ARRESTS ARE EXPECTED TO BE MADE...

"...AMONG THEM *CAPTAIN CHRISTOPHER BLACK*, A HIGHLY DECORATED OFFICER OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT, WHO IS ACCUSED OF BEING PART OF A NETWORK OF CITY OFFICIALS WHO HAD TAKEN CONTROL OF THE LATE MAYOR COBBLEPOT'S CRIMINAL OPERATIONS.

"OUR CURRENT MAYOR, JESSICA DENT, REMAINS HOSPITALIZED, BUT IS EXPECTED TO MAKE A FULL RECOVERY..."

THEY SAY BRUCE WAYNE IS PAYING FOR ALL THE REPAIRS.

YOU GET THAT, GORDO? WE ARREST THE GUY, ACCUSE HIM OF BEING *THE RIDDLER* AND HE WRITES A BIG, FAT CHECK TO THE *POLICE DEPARTMENT*.

THE CITY MAY HAVE UNDERESTIMATED BRUCE WAYNE. HIS PARENTS WERE GOOD PEOPLE.

YOU'RE GOOD PEOPLE, TOO. WHEN PEOPLE ARE DROWNING IN GOTHAM, THEY DON'T OFTEN GET THROWN A LIFE PRESERVER.

I DON'T THINK I COULD SURVIVE THIS PLACE WITHOUT A PARTNER LIKE YOU.

A *FRIEND*, BULLOCK.

GORDON?

COMMISSIONER WANTS TO SEE YOU.

Weh.

JESS CA?

WAYNE.

STAY THE HELL AWAY FROM MY SISTER.

Nn

BRUCE?

WHERE'S MY BROTHER?

I'M SORRY, JESSICA.

JESSICA?

THE MAYOR NEEDS HER REST, MR. WAYNE. SHE'S BEEN THROUGH A LOT.

"WHAT HAPPENED?"

SPILL IT, GORDO. COMMISS ONER WANT TO PIN A *STAR* ON YOUR CHEST?

NO.

I'VE BEEN PROMOTED TO *CAPTAIN.*

YOU'RE GETTING A NEW *PARTNER.*

"I WAS HOPING WE COULD CELEBRATE, WHAT WITH THIS ALL BEING OVER AND WHATNOT."

BUT THEN YOU GO AND DROP *THIS* ON ME, BRUCE?

WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO WITH THIS *THING*? LIKE WHAT THE HELL DOES IT *EAT*?

I EAT FOOD, OLD MAN.

HE NEEDS A BATH.

HIS NAME'S WAYLON.

WAYLON?

WITHOUT HER BROTHER... JESSICA IS GOING TO NEED ME.

SHE WAS RIGHT. I CAN BE A SYMBOL. BOTH AS *BRUCE WAYNE* AND AS *BATMAN*.

BUT WE'RE GOING TO NEED MORE *HELP* TO DO IT.

I'LL EXPLAIN WHEN I GET BACK, BUT TOP OF THE LIST RIGHT NOW IS FINDING SOMEWHERE TO HIDE THE CAR. AND WAYLON KNOWS A PLACE.

CAR?

"WHAT CAR?"

WHAT DO YOU MEAN MR. WAYNE DOESN'T WANT THE *CAR* ANYMORE?! WE'VE BEEN WORKING AROUND THE *CLOCK* TO GET IT DONE, MR. FOX!

MR. WAYNE HAS *ANOTHER* PROJECT IN MIND.

THE CITY HAS A NEW CHANCE. AND SO DO WE.

Uh-huh. GREAT. SUNSHINE AND RAINBOWS FOR EVERYONE.

ONE OTHER THING, ROMEO. YOU KNOW THE **FLOWERS** YOU ASKED ME TO SEND TO THAT APARTMENT?

DID YOU?

TRIED.

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? THERE'S NO **WOMAN** THAT LIVES HERE. **GET LOST!**

"THE OWNER WAS OUT OF TOWN THE NIGHT YOU CRASHED IN."

HIS PLACE HAD BEEN ROBBED WHILE HE WAS GONE.

SO DON'T LET YOURSELF GO THINKING GOTHAM'S BEEN **CURED** OF **ANYTHING** YET.

"SEE, BRUCE, YOU MIGHT HAVE WORKED OUT WHO **YOU** ARE."

"BUT IN GOTHAM, YOU NEVER KNOW WHO ANYONE *ELSE* REALLY IS."

MEOW.

END

UPSTATE MAINE.

DANGER

NO TRESPASSING

"I have a feeling that inside you somewhere, there's something nobody knows about."

—ALFRED HITCHCOCK'S *SHADOW OF A DOUBT*, 1943

BEN, IT'S GERALD. WE GOT A PROBLEM OUT AT THE OLD ASYLUM.

SOMEONE CUT THROUGH THE CHAINS.

I SEE *BEER CANS.* PROBABLY KIDS FROM *COLBY* AGAIN...

NO, DON'T BOTHER COMIN' OUT. JUST LOG IT. I'LL SHOO THEM AWAY.

OKAY, PARTY'S OVER, EVERYONE...

AND YOU'RE GONNA CLEAN UP ALL YOUR TRASH.

KREEK

I CAN'T FIND HER

I CAN'T FIND HER.

GEEZ, MISTER.

YOU HURT?

YES.

MY HEART IS BROKEN.

I CAN'T FIND MY LITTLE GIRL.

SKETCH

SHE'S LOST IN OUR FAMILY'S *MAZE* OF *MADNESS.*

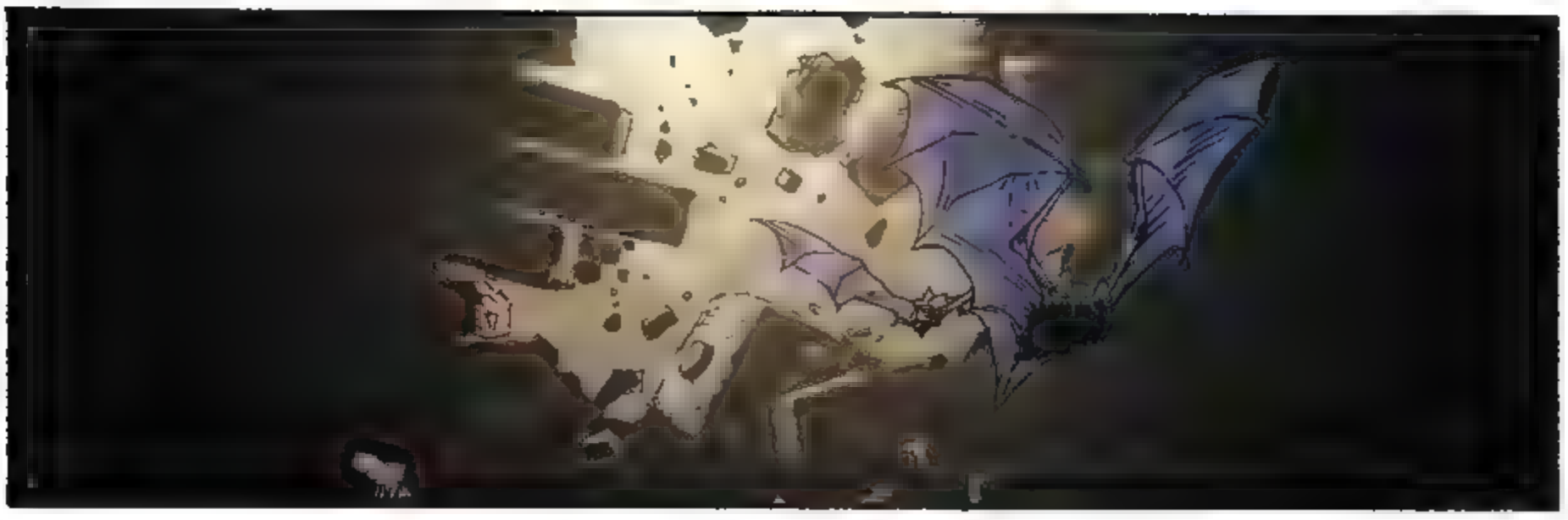
YOU! TELL ME WHERE SHE IS!

WHERE IS MARTHA?!

AAHHHH!

ARKHA

ONE MONTH AFTER THE DEATH OF HARVEY DENT.



WE'RE ALMOST THERE.

YA SAID THAT HALF AN HOUR AGO, *CHUM*, YET *THIS* HERE TUNNEL LOOKS LIKE THE *SAME* BLOODY ONE WE PASSED *TEN MINUTES BACK.*

WELL, MAYBE. TOLD YA THIS IS WHY THEY CALL THE SEWERS *ARKHAM'S LABYRINTH.* I MEAN, WHO THE *HELL* DESIGNED THIS PLACE? I'VE BEEN LIVIN' DOWN HERE FOR *YEARS* AN' I *STILL* GET *LOST.*

THEN WHY THE HELL ARE WE FOLLOWING *YOU?* REPTILES GOT BAD EYESIGHT ANYHOW.

BETTER THAN OLD MEN.

HOW COME WE'RE *TRUSTING* THIS *CIRCUS FREAK,* BRUCE?

KEEP PUSHING ME, PENNYWORTH, AND GOTHAM'S *URBAN LEGEND* ABOUT "*KILLER CROC*" EATIN' PEOPLE MIGHT COME *TRUE.*

YOU CAN BLOODY *EAT* ME, ALL RIGHT.

DO I REALLY NEED TO ASK YOU TWO TO *STOP?*

...HE STARTED IT.

BOLLOCKS.

THIS IS A WASTE OF TIME, BRUCE.

I DON'T THINK SO, ALFRED.

WE'RE HERE. WAYLON WAS RIGHT.

THIS IS BIG ENOUGH TO HIDE THE CAR.

WHAT IS THIS PLACE?

BUILT IN THE '30s, IT WAS GOING TO BE THE ***ARKHAM MANOR*** SUBWAY STATION. BUT IT WAS ***SHUT DOWN*** BEFORE IT OPENED TO THE PUBLIC.

WHY'S THAT?

MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES. FROM THE ARKHAMS.

MY ANCESTORS THOUGHT THEY WERE TRAPPING THE ***EVIL SPIRITS*** HAUNTING THEM DOWN HERE.

EVIL SPIRITS?

THEY ***BRICKED UP*** THE ENTRANCES AND BUILT ***OVER IT.*** THEIR ***IRRATIONAL FEAR*** IS WHY THE ENTIRE SEWER SYSTEM IS A MAZE. WHY THE STREETS ABOVE SOMETIMES ***DEAD-END*** OR ***SPIRAL*** BACK INTO EACH OTHER. THE ARKHAMS WERE TRYING TO CONFUSE THE "GHOSTS."

YOUR FAMILY WAS FULL OF CRAZY.

ARKHAM MANOR IS ABOVE US. I OWN THAT.

THAT TUNNEL ***DEAD-ENDS*** INTO AN ABANDONED FACTORY OUTSIDE OF GOTHAM, DOWN THE ROAD FROM WAYNE MANOR. I OWN THAT, TOO.

IT'LL TAKE SOME WORK, BUT WE CAN SECURE THIS LOCATION.

I KNOW WE NEED TO KEEP OUR OPERATION ***FAR AWAY*** FROM WAYNE MANOR IN CASE THE COPS COME BACK LOOKING, BUT IS ***THIS*** REALLY WHERE YOU WANNA KEEP THE CAR?

AN ABANDONED SUBWAY STOP OVERFLOWIN' WITH ***TOILET WATER?***

THIS WON'T ONLY BE FOR THE CAR, ALFRED. IT'LL BE FOR US.

US?

WE CAN TURN THIS INTO A BASE OF OPERATIONS.

A *BASE* OF *OPERATIONS?*

LISTEN, BRUCE. WHAT ARE WE BLOODY *DOING* HERE?

WE WERE IN A *GOOD SPOT,* YOU AND ME. WE HAD THIS *BATMAN* THING *DOWN,* BOY. *STOPPED* THE PENGU N. *STOPPED* THE RIDDLER.

WHY BRING IN THIS ROCKY-SK NNED BLOKE? YOU READ THE POL CE REPORT. CROC'S *WANTED* FOR *THEFT, ASSAULT.*

FIRST OFF, AL FRED, THOSE POLICE REPORTS CAN BE CHALKED UP TO MISUNDERSTANDINGS.

AND SECONDLY, NOT ONL Y DOES WAYLON KNOW HIS WAY AROUND THE *UNDERBELLY* OF GOTHAM BETTER THAN YOU OR I...

...HE *OVERHEARS* THINGS FROM THE CRIM NALS *ABOVE* THAT WE CAN *USE...*

...HE'S *STRONG...*

...AND I *TRUST* HIM.

CROC'S ONE OF US NOW...

"...LIKE *LUCIUS FOX...*"

MR. WAYNE WAS LOOKING INTO *BOAT RACING.*

AND LAST MONTH, HE WAS OBSESSED WITH *HANG GLIDING,* MR. FOX. WE SPENT *WEEKS* AND *MILLIONS* DEVELOPING A *SYNTHETIC SAILCLOTH--*

YOU KNOW MR. WAYNE AND HIS INTERESTS. THEY NEVER STOP CHANGING.

I FIND IT AS *ANNOYING* AS *YOU* ALL DO, BUT *HE* PAYS THE BILLS!

"...CAPTAIN JIM GORDON..."

I'LL TALK TO DETECTIVE BULLOCK, COMMISSIONER.

YES, SIR.

I KNOW HOW SERIOUS THE CHARGES AGAINST HIM ARE.

WILL SOMEONE *PLEASE* GO FIND *BULLOCK* AND DRAG HIM OUT OF WHATEVER *GUTTER* HE'S *SLEEPING* IN?

"...AND *JESSICA.*"

MAYOR DENT? DO YOU NEED SOME ASSISTANCE WITH YOUR, *uh...MASK?*

NO, MANDY.

I'VE ALREADY PUT IT ON.

JESSICA ASKED FOR MY HELP. TO CARRY ON MY PARENTS' MISS ON--

TO MAKE THE CITY A SAFE PLACE FOR THE FAMILIES THAT CALL IT HOME. I KNOW, BRUCE. I WAS THERE.

AND YOU KNOW WHEN SHE FIRST ASKED ME, I REFUSED. I THOUGHT ***THE BATMAN*** COULD SAVE THIS CITY ALONE, BUT HE NEEDS HELP.

HELP FROM ***BRUCE WAYNE.***

AS BRUCE WAYNE, I CAN UTILIZE EVERY DIVISION AT WAYNE ENTERPRISES AND THE MONEY WE POSSESS TO IMPROVE THE SOCIAL AND URBAN INFRASTRUCTURES IN GOTHAM.

AND AS THE BATMAN, I CAN HELP THE GOTHAM CITY POLICE TAKE ON THE CRIMINALS WHO PREY ON OUR CITY.

BUT I CAN'T BE IN TWO PLACES AT ONCE. I NEED HELP. I NEED ***SOLDIERS.***

MEN AND WOMEN LIKE WAYLON. PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN OVERLOOKED AND FORGOTTEN.

OUTSIDERS.

YOU MEAN PEOPLE LIKE ***YOU?***

YES, ALFRED.

THERE ARE PEOPLE OUT THERE WHO WANT TO *FIGHT* FOR GOTHAM.

THEY HAVE THE *HEART* AND THE *TALENT*. THEY ONLY NEED *DIRECTION. LEADERSHIP.*

IF WE'RE GOING TO TRULY *CHANGE* GOTHAM, WE HAVE TO *EXPAND* OUR OPERATION BOTH AS BRUCE WAYNE *AND* AS THE BATMAN.

VZZD

VZZD

EXPAND IT? *BAH.*

YOU'RE ASKING FOR TROUBLE HERE, BRUCE.

CAPTAIN GORDON?

BATMAN. I, uh .

YOU CALLED. I ASSUME THAT MEANS YOU NEED MY HELP.

"YOU COULD SAY THAT."

WEEOOWEEOOWEE

COPS ARE RIGHT ON US!

I CAN'T LOSE THEM.

DON'T NEED TO!

FIRE IN THE HOLE!

LOOK OU--

"WHY ARE YOU JUMPIN' THE MINUTE GORDON ASKS, BRUCE?"

THESE *MANIACS* HAVE ALREADY *KILLED* THREE PEOPLE AND SENT A DOZEN POLICE OFFICERS TO THE E.R., ALFRED.

I'M JUST SAYIN', JIM GORDON ISN'T THE BE-ALL-END-ALL. HE DOESN'T KNOW HOW TO *PROTECT* GOTHAM LIKE *YOU* AND *ME*.

DON'T FORGET HE THOUGHT BRUCE WAYNE WAS THE *RIDDLER*.

HAHAHAHA! YEAH! BURN ANOTHER ONE!

VZZD

JIM'S CALLING AGAIN, ALFRED. I HAVE TO GO.

BRUCE?

DISCONNECTED

BRUCE?!

GO AHEAD, CAPTAIN.

THEY'RE HEADING SOUTH ON THIRD, JUST PASSED MONTGOMERY.

THEY'VE GOT A DAMN FLAMETHROWER.

I'VE GOT SOMETHING OF MY OWN.

VRRROOOOOMMMMM

WHAT THE HELL IS THAT?

AWESOME!

103

Tonight

TIMES

BIG!

BOOM!

CAN!

LOOK OUT!

BAM

KA-CHIK

KR OOM

WHO IS THAT?

JUST ANOTHER DEAD MAN.

FANGS EXTENDED

CHANKK

KRNCH

CCCRRT

I CAN'T STEER IT!

"SLOW DOWN, MAN!"

I'M TRYING!

VARROOOMM

FANGS RETRACTED.

CHUNK

KARASHH

WHO TAUGHT YOU HOW TO DRIVE?

JUST GET THE MONEY!

OH NO. IS THAT...?

IT'S THE BATMAN!

RUN!

RUN? I AIN'T SCARED OF THE BATMAN

IT'S WHY THEY GAVE US THIS!

YOU'RE REALLY PISSING ME OFF TONIGHT.

BRUCE? YOU THERE?

YOUR BODY CAM WENT OUT.

MUST BE THE FIRE.

FIRE?

GGAARH!

STOP CALLING ME BACK. KEEP THE LINE OPEN FOR GORDON.

OH GOD! OH GOD! BATMAN!

WATCH IT! YOU'RE DROPPING THE CASH!

AAAA!

DON'T CUT ME OFF LIKE THAT, eh? NOT FOR GORDON. IT'S RUDE.

I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS RIGHT NOW.

DID YOU GET THEM?

ALMOST.

BLAM

BLAM

AHH!

I WANT TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT JESSICA.

NOW?

I'M FINE WITH SAYING I'M PART OF YOUR BATTLE PLAN--

--BUT WE TALKED ABOUT THE DANGER OF PUTTING JESSICA BACK IN THE LINE OF FIRE AFTER THE ACCIDENT--

IF I WASN'T CLEAR BEFORE, EXPANDING OUR OPERATION WASN'T MY IDEA...

"...IT WAS HERS."

>HFF!<

>HFF!<

>HFF!<

WA-KRAK

OWWW!

I'M WARNING YOU! STUH-STAY BACK!

BUT YOU'RE SO CUTE.

WAIT, WHAT ARE YOU...

AAIEEEE!

BRUCE?

FEOWW

WHAT IS IT?

"THIS CITY IS FULL OF *ANIMALS.*"

PRRRR

CRIME MAY BE TECHNICALLY DOWN IN GOTHAM, BUT VIOLENCE IS WAY UP.

THESE PSYCHOS HAD A FLAMETHROWER! THEY BURNED UP PEOPLE! COPS!

AND EARLIER THIS WEEK, SOME OTHER SCUMBAGS USED A ROCKET LAUNCHER TO ROB A BANK. ANOTHER FOUR PEOPLE BLOWN TO BITS!

THESE FREAKS ARE ARMED WITH MILITARY-GRADE WEAPONS! THE POLICE DON'T HAVE A CLUE ABOUT WHERE THEY'RE COMING FROM. BUT WE ALL KNOW WHY!

IT'S BECAUSE THE BATMAN IS OUT THERE.

THESE CRIMINALS SEE CRAZY AND THEY GET CRAZY.

SO WHAT DO YOU THINK WE SHOULD DO? ASK THE BATMAN TO HANG UP HIS CAPE AND COWL? MOVE TO CHICAGO?

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE MY HUSBAND AND I FEEL SAFE GOING TO THE THEATER DISTRICT AT NIGHT

DON'T GET USED TO IT. NEXT THING YOU KNOW, THESE KILLERS WILL HAVE TANKS ROLLING DOWN THE STREETS!

VZZD

VZZD

MONTOYA?

WE FOUND BULLOCK, CAPTAIN.

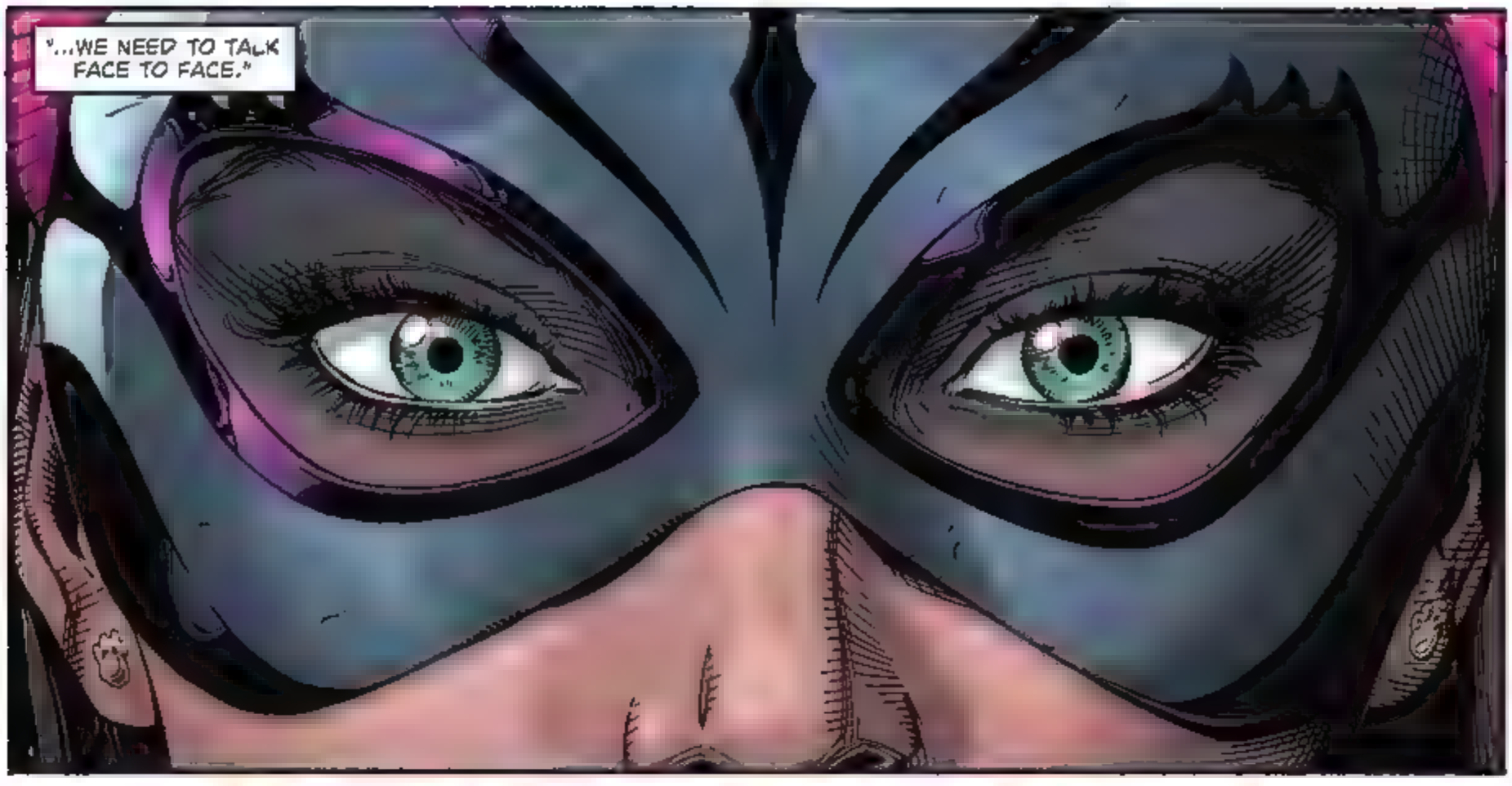
HE WAS SLEEPING IN HIS CAR IN THE MIDDLE OF AN INTERSECTION IN FRONT OF MATCHES.

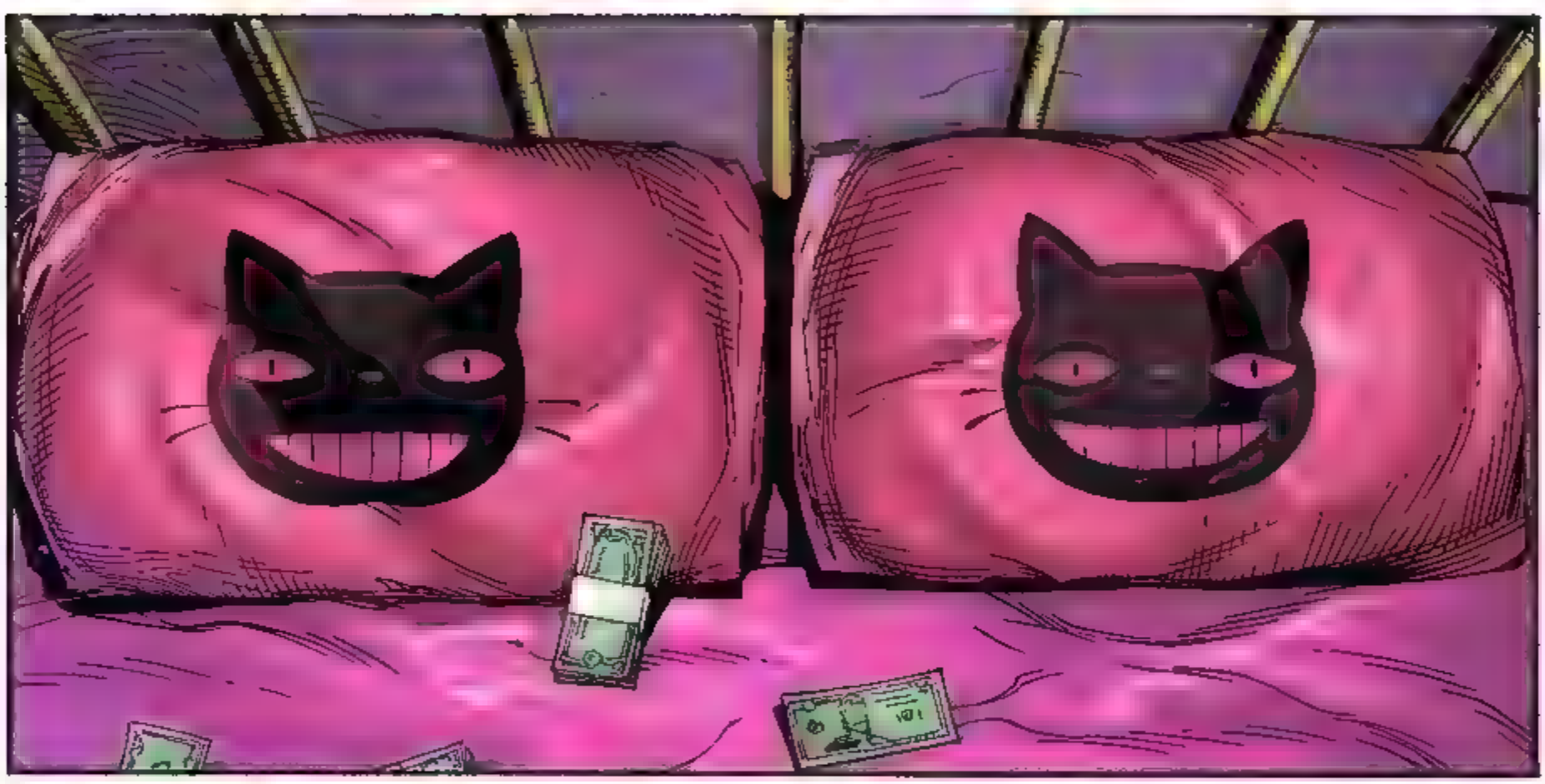
SMELLS LIKE EVERY KINDA LIQUOR YOU CAN NAME.

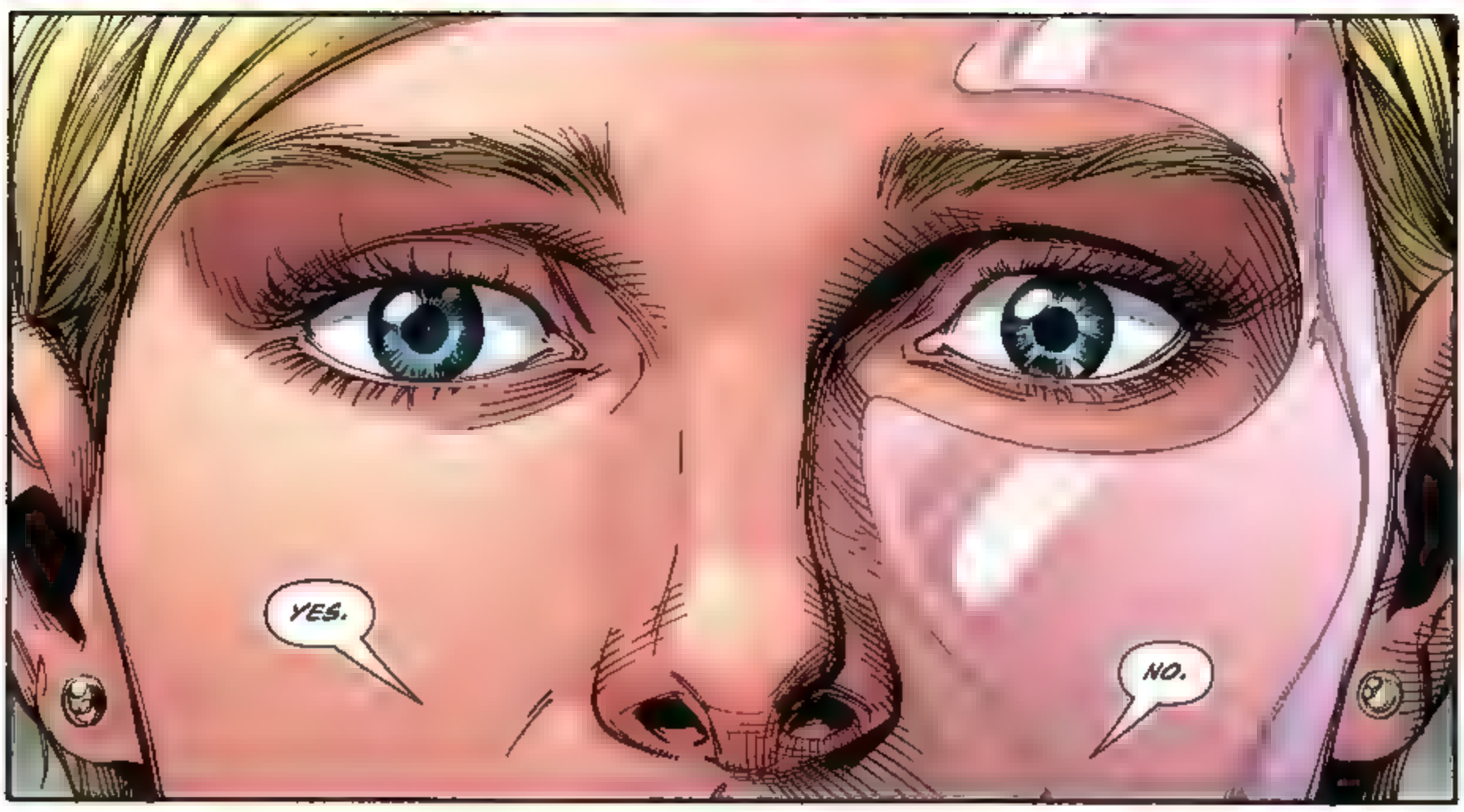
YOU WANT CRIS AND ME TO GET HIM HOME?

NO.

BRING HIM IN...


"...WE NEED TO TALK FACE TO FACE."




YES.
NO.

BECAUSE THIS WOULD HAVE BEEN *IMPORTANT* TO MY BROTHER.

THIS ISN'T THAT *COMPLICATED*, SENATOR. I'M ASKING FOR NOMINAL ONGOING FINANCIAL SUPPORT, BUT NOT THE INITIAL INVESTMENT. BRUCE WAYNE IS FUNDING THE RENOVATION AND...

YES, *BRUCE WAYNE.*

SENATOR, *PLEASE.* AFTER EVERYTHING MY BROTHER DID TO PUT AWAY YOUR DAUGHTER'S KILLER, I THOUGHT YOU WOULD. .

THANK YOU, SHARON. I APPRECIATE IT. WE'LL TALK SOON.

JESSICA?

ARE YOU READY?

I THOUGHT I WAS MEETING YOU AT THE CEREMONY.

I THOUGHT I'D COME PICK YOU UP. ALFRED'S DOWNSTAIRS.

THE MASK I'M WEARING, I KNOW IT'S...

IT HURTS ALL THE TIME.

THERE WAS NERVE DAMAGE. I CAN'T SEE COLOR IN MY LEFT EYE.

JESSICA, MAYBE WE NEED TO TAKE MORE TIME BEFORE JUMPING BACK INTO THIS.

YOU NEED TO HEAL.

I'M NEVER GOING TO HEAL, BRUCE.

AFTER WHAT HAPPENED TO HARVEY, I'M NEVER GOING TO BE THE SAME.

HARVEY WAS TOUGH AND HE COULD BE AN ASSHOLE, BUT HE WAS THE ONLY FAMILY I HAD. YOU NEVER GET OVER IT, DO YOU? BEING THE LAST ONE LEFT?

YOU LEARN TO LIVE WITH IT AS BEST YOU CAN.

I WISH YOU AND HARVEY KNEW EACH OTHER THE WAY I KNOW BOTH OF YOU.

I THINK YOU WOULD'VE BEEN FRIENDS.

I'M SORRY WE DIDN'T GET THE CHANCE TO BE.

WELL, LET'S GET TO HAPPIER THOUGHTS. LIKE MY APPRECIATION.

THE *DAILY* FLOWER DELIVERY IN THE HOSPITAL DIDN'T GO UNNOTICED.

BY THE TIME I LEFT, MY ROOM LOOKED LIKE THE *GARDEN OF EDEN.*

IT WAS THE LEAST I COULD DO.

NOW IT'S TIME TO DO THE MOST.

BRUCE, YOU SURE JESS CA'S LP FOR TH S SO SOON?

SHE'S STRONGER THAN YOU GIVE HER CREDIT FOR, ALFRED.

ARE YOU *INNOCENT* OR ARE YOU *GUILTY*?

THAT'S HOW MY *BROTHER* SAW THE WORLD.

SOME MIGHT CALL IT *SIMPLISTIC*, BUT I THINK IT'S *HONEST*. AND BEING HONEST WITH OURSELVES IS HARDER THAN BEING HONEST WITH EACH OTHER.

BUT I'M GOING TO DO *BOTH* RIGHT NOW.

I'M *GUILTY*.

WE'RE *ALL* GUILTY.

WE'RE GUILTY OF NOT DOING *ENOUGH* FOR GOTHAM.

WE'RE GUILTY OF NOT DOING EVERYTHING WE CAN TO FIGHT THE CRIME AND CORRUPTION THAT HAVE INFESTED OUR CITY SINCE THE DAY *THOMAS* AND *MARTHA WAYNE* WERE TRAGICALLY KILLED.

THE *DARK DAYS* OF GOTHAM BEGAN WITH *THEIR* DEATHS.

IT *ENDS* WITH MY *BROTHER'S*.

HARVEY GAVE HIS *LIFE* PROTECTING ME DURING THE RIDDLER'S ATTACKS. I MISSED HIS FUNERAL BECAUSE I WAS RECOVERING IN THE HOSPITAL. I SAW HIS TOMBSTONE LATER, BUT IT WON'T BE HIS TOMBSTONE THAT MARKS HIS LIFE.

IT WILL BE A SAFE, THRIVING *GOTHAM CITY*.

AFTER THE NEXT *SIX MONTHS* OF RENOVATION, SUPPORTED AND FUNDED BY *BRUCE WAYNE* AND *WAYNE ENTERPRISES*, THE OLD GOTHAM HOTEL WILL BECOME *THE HARVEY DENT HOUSE FOR THE HOMELESS.*

IT WILL GIVE *SHELTER* TO *HUNDREDS* OF THOSE IN NEED IN GOTHAM, ALMOST *HALF* OF THEM *CHILDREN.*

IT WILL BE THE *MODEL* TO WHICH *ALL OTHER* SHELTERS ACROSS THE *COUNTRY* WILL LOOK...

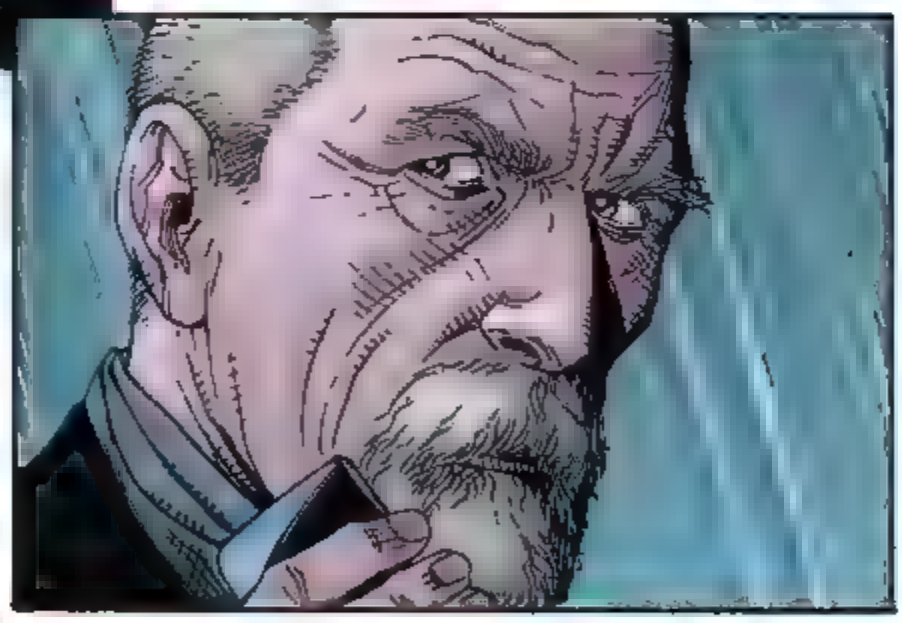
BLIMEY... THOUGHT I TURNED YOU OFF.

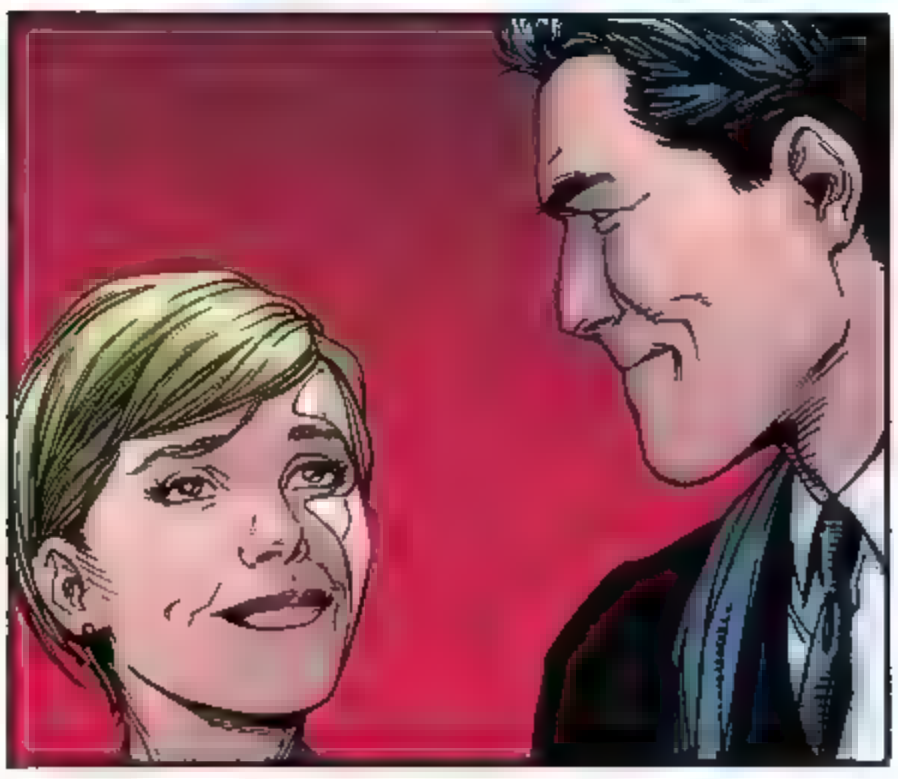
BZZT BZZT

HELLO?

...WUT?

...WANT TO GIVE THANKS FOR THE DONATIONS, THE SUPPORT, AND THE FRIENDSHIP OF BRUCE WAYNE.





BRUCE? WE NEED TO GO.

WHAT'S THE RUSH?

THE GOTHAM MENTAL HOSPITAL CALLED.

ABOUT WHAT?

"A SECURITY GUARD AT AN ABANDONED MENTAL INSTITUTION IN MAINE FOUND H.M."

HE'D BROKEN IN AND WAS SCRIBBLING A *MAZE* ON THE WALLS.

WHEN THE GUARD TRIED TO HELP, HE ATTACKED. SO...WE HAD TO PROCEED WITH CAUTION HERE, TOO.

THE GUARD RESTRAINED HIM AND CALLED THE POLICE. HE WAS ARRESTED. NO IDENTIFICATION, AND HE REFUSED TO TALK.

SO THEY TOOK HIS PRINTS.

7F

8F

9F

10F

AT FIRST, THEY DIDN'T FIND ANY MATCHES. NOT UNTIL HE TOLD THEM HIS NAME.

WHEN HE WAS TRANSFERRED HERE, WE WERE SKEPTICAL. AND HE WAS QUITE LOUD. WE HAD TO RESTRAIN HIM, MR. WAYNE. FOR OUR SAFETY AND HIS, YOU SEE.

WE THOUGHT HE WAS LYING. WHO WOULDN'T? WE DID MORE TESTS.

BUT FINGERPRINTS. DENTAL RECORDS. THEY WERE BOTH A MATCH.

IT'S *ADRIAN ARKHAM*, MR. WAYNE.

IT'S YOUR GRANDFATHER.

BOLLOCKS. I DON'T CARE *WHAT* MATCHES *WHAT*. IT *CAN'T* BE H.M.

NO.

IT CAN'T BE.

"MY MOTHER SAW IT ALL.

"HER MOTHER *SHOT* HER FATHER... ADRIAN ARKHAM. ,

", ,AND THEN JUMPED OFF THE ROOF OF ARKHAM MANOR."

MOMMY?

"HER PARENTS DIED RIGHT IN FRONT OF HER."

YOUR GRANDFATHER HAS ***SCARS*** FROM ***BULLETS*** IN HIS CHEST AND SHOULDER.

RECORDS STATED THE BODY WAS CREMATED. THE CASKET AT THE FUNERAL WAS CLOSED.

BUT WE THINK... ***SOMEHOW...*** YOUR GRANDFATHER ***SURVIVED*** THE GUNSHOTS, BRUCE.

WE DON'T KNOW ***HOW*** OR ***WHY,*** BUT ADRIAN ARKHAM LET THE WORLD BELIEVE HE WAS ***DEAD*** FOR OVER ***FIFTY YEARS.***

WHERE THE BLOODY HELL'S HE ***BEEN?***

HE HAS VENOUS ULCERS ON BOTH LEGS AND WAS SUFFERING FROM A RESPIRATORY INFECTION. BOTH EVIDENCE THAT HE'S BEEN ON THE STREETS FOR QUITE SOME TIME. ***YEARS.***

MAYBE ***DECADES.*** I CAN'T BE CERTAIN.

WE'RE GOING TO NEED YOUR AUTHORIZATION TO PULL HIS ***MEDICAL RECORDS,*** MR. WAYNE.

I'VE ALREADY ADMINISTERED ANTIPSYCHOTICS--

YOU GAVE HIM DRUGS? WITHOUT A PROPER ANALYSIS?

HE WAS ERRATIC. TOO MUCH FOR US TO HANDLE--

I WANT TO SEE HIM.

YES, OF COURSE, BUT...YOU'LL SEE HE HAS ***FRESH BRUISES*** ON HIS ***ARMS,*** A FEW ***LACERATIONS*** ON HIS ***BACK.***

FROM ***WHAT?***

THE ORDERLIES WERE ONLY DOING THEIR JOB, MR. WAYNE. HE WAS EXTREMELY AGITATED WHEN WE BROUGHT HIM IN. HE FELL INTO A ***GLASS CABINET*** AND...

...WE DIDN'T KNOW WHO HE WAS. WE DIDN'T KNOW HE WAS ***IMPORTANT...***

THAT SOUNDED BAD, I KNOW.

IT SURE AS HELL DID.

I WANT TO GO HOME.

"DON'T YOU WORRY..."

...I GOT THE GROCERIES.

LOTS OF *APPLES* AND *ORANGES*.

APPLES AND ORANGES?!

LEMME SEE.

Heh. THIS AIN'T FRUIT.

I WAS JOKIN', DUMBASS.

YOU WANT MORE? *GUNS. BOMBS.* EVEN GOT *BODY ARMOR,* I HEAR. THEY'RE HANDING IT OUT TOMORROW N GHT.

WHERE AT?

THE HARVEY DENT HOUSE.

HEY! YOU SEE THAT?

STUPID DOG REALLY THINKS WE GOT *FOOD* IN THE BAG.

YOU *HUNGRY*, DOG?

WE DON'T *GOT* NOTHIN'! *GET OUTTA HERE!*

YIIIP

HOLD UP.

MIGHT BE A GOOD *BAIT DOG.*

BAIT DOG?

FOR MY F GHTER. I GOT SOME DUCT TAPE IN THE CAR, KEEP H M FROM BITIN' BACK.

THINK DUCT TAPE WILL KEEP *MY* MOUTH CLOSED?

RRRRRR!

AAAHHH!

S'ALL RIGHT, BOY.

I GET AFRAID A' NEW PEOPLE, TOO, BUT WE AIN'T ALL BAD.

GOOD DOG.

GOOD MORNING, BULLOCK.

GORDO?

WHAT AM I DOING HERE?

IN THE DRUNK TANK?

OH. RIGHT.

YOU WANT A COFFEE?

YEAH.

YOU MIND?

SURE, CAPTAIN. HOW'S HE TAKE IT?

CREAM AND SUGAR.

NO. JUST BLACK.

LOST THE TASTE FOR THE OTHER STUFF.

...HOW'S LIFE BEHIND THE DESK?

IT'D BE A LOT EASIER IF YOU'D KNOCK THIS *OFF*. DO YOU REALIZE HOW MUCH *TROUBLE* YOU'RE IN? YOUR PARTNER WANTS TO CHARGE YOU WITH *ASSAULT*, BULLOCK. YOU COULD *LOSE* YOUR *BADGE*.

I BARELY *TOUCHED* THE GUY. PLUS, HE'S AN *ASSHOLE*, SO WHO CARES *WHAT* HE SAYS?

DETECTIVE CHOW MADE A *FULL REPORT*. HE'S READY TO FILE IT UNLESS YOU *APOLOGIZE*.

YOU KNOW *WHY* I HIT HIM?

CHOW SAID THE ONLY REASON YOU GOT ***PROMOTED*** THE WAY YOU DID WAS BECAUSE EVERYONE KNOWS YOU TALK TO ***THE BATMAN.***

HE SAID YOU WERE A ***DIRTY COP*** LOOKING TO CLIMB THE LADDER ***ANY WAY*** YOU COULD.

HE SPREAD THAT CRAP ***AROUND,*** JIM.

YOU THINK I'M GONNA LET HIM TALK ABOUT YOU LIKE THAT?

THAT KIND OF BULLSHIT COMES WITH THE TERRITORY OF BEING THE ***BOSS.***

YOU NEED TO APOLOGIZE AND HOPE CHOW DROPS THE CHARGES.

I'M REASSIGNING YOU TO A ***NEW PARTNER,*** ON THE CONDITION YOU GO ***BACK*** INTO A.A. AND YOU ***STAY*** IN IT.

WE HAVE CRIMINALS OUT THERE ARMING THEMSELVES WITH ***ROCKET LAUNCHERS*** AND ***FLAMETHROWERS.***

I NEED ***EVERY*** GOOD DETECTIVE I HAVE WORKING ON FINDING OUT ***WHO'S*** BRINGING THESE WEAPONS INTO GOTHAM AND ***WHY.***

THAT INCLUDES ***YOU,*** BULLOCK. IT REALLY DOES. WHEN YOU'RE SOBER, THERE'S NOT A BETTER DETECTIVE ON THE FORCE. NOT ONE. YOU HEAR ME?

...THANKS, JIM.

AND, BULLOCK?

OFF THE RECORD. . THANKS FOR HAVING MY BACK.

ALWAYS, GORDO.

LIKE IT OR NOT.

"YOU THINK THIS S A GOOD DEA, BRUCE?"

I'M NOT LEAVING HIM IN THE GOTHAM MENTAL HOSPITAL. MY MOTHER TRIED TO SHUT THAT PLACE DOWN FOR YEARS. SHE SPENT SOME TIME THERE HERSELF.

HOW ARE WE GONNA TAKE CARE OF HIM, eh?

LUCIUS HAS ALREADY LOCATED SOME OF THE BEST PSYCHIATRIC DOCTORS IN THE COUNTRY.

THEY'RE COMING HERE TO EXAMINE HIM. ALONG WITH A MEDICAL TEAM TO TAKE CARE OF H.M.

LOOK AT THIS...

THAT'S H M, ISN'T IT?

WHERE'D YOU FIND THAT?

THE LIBRARY. IT'S FULL OF BOOKS ON THE ***WAYNES*** AND THE ***ARKHAMS.***

Nnn.

THIS ISN'T MY HOUSE.

THIS ISN'T MY HOUSE!
YOU'RE AT WAYNE MANOR. I'M BRUCE.
YOU'RE SAFE.
NO. I WANT TO GO HOME!
YOU SHOULDN'T TRY AND GET UP, ADRIAN. YOU NEED YOUR REST.
WHERE'S MARTHA?
WHERE'S MY LITTLE GIRL?

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH HER?

BLIMEY!

THE SPIRITS TOOK MY WIFE! THEY CAN'T HAVE MY DAUGHTER, TOO!

TAKE IT EASY NOW, GRANDPA.

LET ME GO!

DON'T HURT HIM!

WAIT.

I SEE HER.

I SEE MY LITTLE GIRL.

IN YOUR EYES.

WHO ARE YOU?

I'M MARTHA'S SON.

MARTHA...

DID HER MOTHER KILL HER?

NO.

IS SHE DEAD?

THEY'VE TAKEN OVER THE EAST WING.

IT'S GOING TO COST YOU A FORTUNE TO KEEP THEM HERE.

Mm.

CROC HAS SOME INFO ON THE .NFLUX OF WEAPONS INTO GOTHAM. GO FIND OUT WHAT. I'LL CATCH UP IN A MINUTE.

AND PLAY NICE.

"IT'S HAPPENING."

WORD HAS SPREAD THROUGH GOTHAM.

EVERY GANG IN THE CITY WILL BE THERE.

AND WE'VE GOT SOMETHING FOR EVERY ONE OF THEM.

WHO WERE YOU TALKIN' TO?

THE PERSON BRINGING US THIS *FIREPOWER*. HE WANTS TO START A *WAR* IN GOTHAM.

WHO IS IT?

HARVEY DENT.

HARVEY DENT?

HARVEY DENT'S *DEAD*.

OI!

WHAT THE BLOODY HELL IS THAT?

IT'S MY DOG.

BAT-DOG.

YOU CAN'T CALL IT THAT.

THEN I'LL CALL HIM ALFRED.

CROC?

WHO'S THIS?

THAT'S BAT-DOG.

"I OVERHEARD IT."

WHOEVER'S BEEN HANDING OUT THESE WEAPONS IS GONNA HAND OUT MORE *TONIGHT.*

I SUPPOSE YOU WANT TO CALL GORDON?

I WILL, ALFRED.

AS SOON AS I KNOW WHAT I'M ASKING HIM TO SEND HIS MEN INTO.

YOU'RE ALL HERE FOR THE SAME THING-- ***WEAPONS.***

BUT WHAT MY BOSS IS OFFER NG S *MORE* THAN WEAPONS.

HOLD UP. THIS ALL REALLY *FREE?*

21

3

1

YOU CAN TAKE WHATEVER YOU CAN CARRY OUT OF HERE.

WHAT'S THE CATCH?

IT'S NOT A CATCH. IT'S A CALLING.

TAKE THE GUNS NOW. DO WHATEVER YOU WANT.

SHOOT PIGEONS IN THE PARK. BURN DOWN A CHURCH. THE BOSS DOESN'T CARE.

BUT HE DOES WANT *ONE THING* IN EXCHANGE FOR ALL THE METAL YOU CAN CARRY.

HE WANTS YOUR *LOYALTY.*

WHEN THE SIGNAL COMES, YOU ANSWER IT. YOU FIGHT FOR HIM.

THERE'S A *WAR* THAT'S ABOUT TO ERUPT IN GOTHAM.

AND YOU'VE ALL JUST BEEN *RECRUITED.*

WHAT MAKES YOU THINK WE'LL DO WHAT YOU WANT?

WHAT IS IT, BRUCE?

GUNS.

LOTS OF THEM.

YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT THAT.

KLK

BLAM

UP THERE!

BY A LOT OF GUNS, YOU MEAN GUNS FIRING AT YOU.

YEAH.

YOU NEED BACKUP?

HE NEEDS MORE THAN THAT.

I GOT HIM!

DAMMIT, BRUCE, GET OUT OF THERE.

UP

WHA-KA
KK

AAHH!

HI, BATMAN.

SORRY TO DROP IN WITHOUT AN INVITATION, BUT IT LOOKED LIKE YOU WERE HAVING SO MUCH *FUN.*

WHO ARE YOU?

YOU'RE A *BAT.*

I'M A *CAT.*

YOUR VOICE. WE'VE MET.

IN THE APARTMENT YOU CRASHED INTO A FEW MONTHS AGO.

THE APARTMENT THAT WASN'T REALLY YOURS.

Uh-huh.

YOU NEVER GOT MY FLOWERS.

YOU CAN SEND ME SOME NEW ONES.

WHAT ELSE ARE YOU GOING TO GIVE ME?

WHAT?

YOU OWE ME.

I OWE YOU?

I JUST SAVED YOUR LIFE. AGAIN.

8

10

I JUST SAVED YOURS.

PLINK

THEN WE'RE NEARLY *EVEN.*

FIRE IN THE HOLE, BOYS!

GRAB WHAT YOU CAN.

I GOT WHAT I CAME FOR.

TRAVIS...

WHUH... WHAT?

HELLO?

YOU'RE GOING TO ANSWER EVERY QUESTION I ASK.

AAAH!!

I WANT TO KNOW *WHERE* THE *GUNS* ARE COMING FROM, TRAVIS.

HOW DO YOU KNOW MY NAME?

I KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT YOU. WHERE YOU WERE BORN. WHEN YOU WERE FIRST ARRESTED. HOW LONG YOU SPENT IN BLACKGATE FOR SMUGGLING DRUGS INTO GOTHAM.

NOW GUNS.

I DON'T LIKE GUNS.

I DON'T LIKE YOU.

I'M GIVING YOU A *CHOICE*, TRAVIS. YOU CAN TALK TO ME, OR YOU CAN BE *HIS* NEXT MEAL.

WHOSE?

MINE!

AAAAA!!!

WHO DO YOU WORK FOR?

HARVEY DENT!

I WORK FOR *HARVEY DENT!*

HARVEY DENT'S *DEAD.*

NO HE AIN'T.

HE WAS THE ONE WHO PUT ME IN BLACKGATE. HE FOUND ME. BROUGHT ME IN. BUT I DON'T KNOW *WHERE* THE WEAPONS ARE COMING FROM. I GOT NO CLUE--

YOU'RE LYING.

HE SMELLS GOOD.

AHHH!

COME ON, BATMAN! YOU DON'T KILL PEOPLE! THEY ALL SAY THAT!

DIDN'T YA HEAR HIM? THAT'S WHAT I'M FOR.

HAVE YOU EVER *SEEN* HARVEY DENT?

I ONLY TUH-TALKED TO H M.

BUT IT WAS HIM. HE KNEW EVERYTHING ABOUT MY CASE. STUFF ONLY HE COULD KNOW.

PLEASE, DON'T LET HIM EAT ME!

I SWEAR TO GOD, IT'S *HARVEY DENT!*

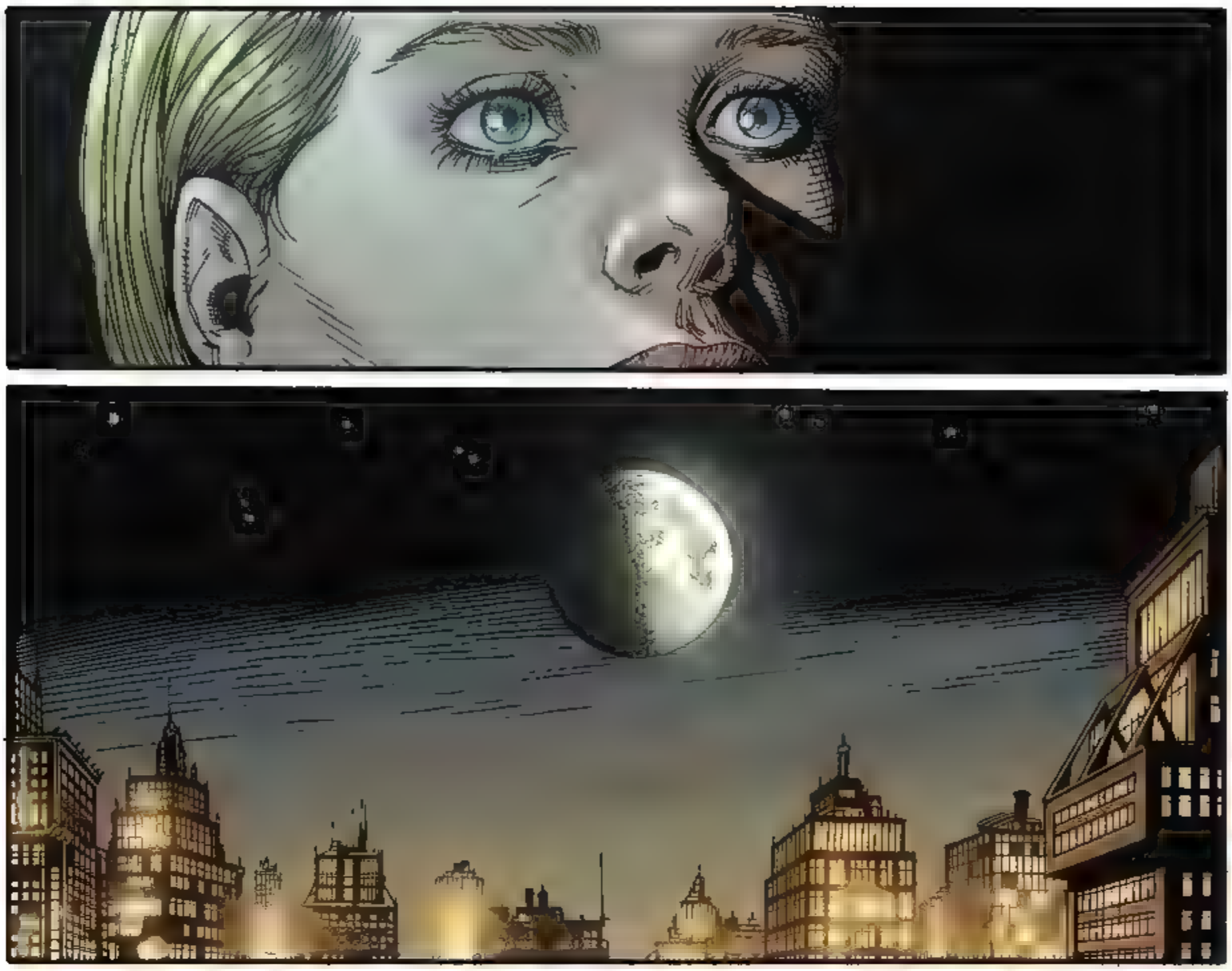
YOU'RE GOING TO LEAVE GOTHAM FOREVER. TONIGHT.

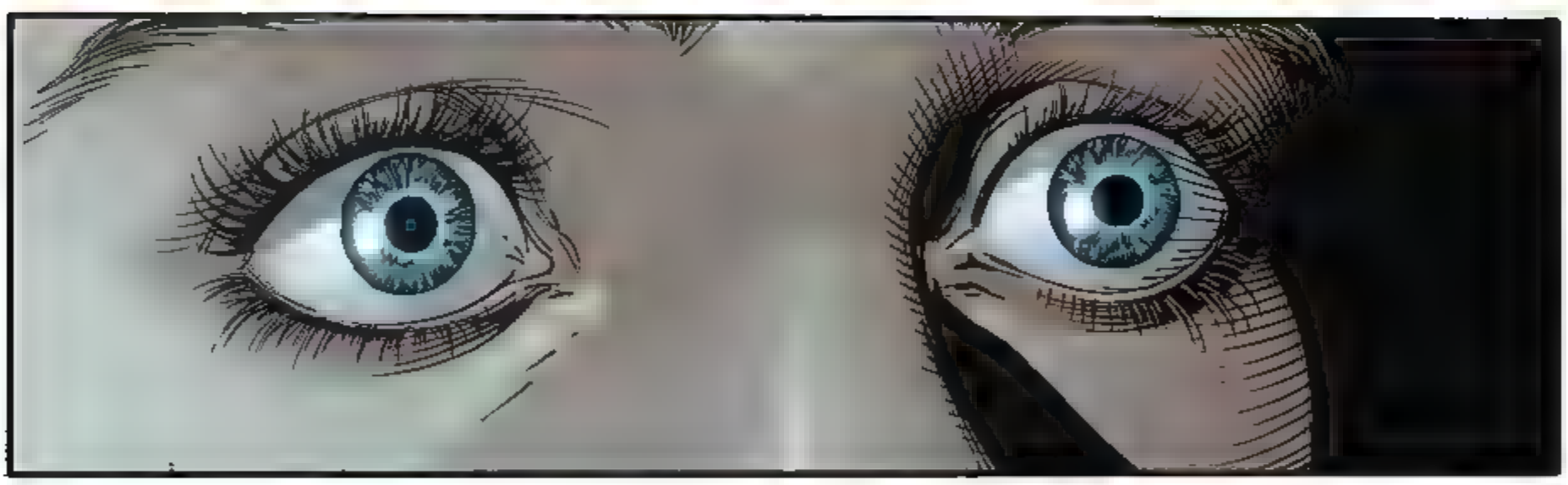
MAKE SURE HE DOES.

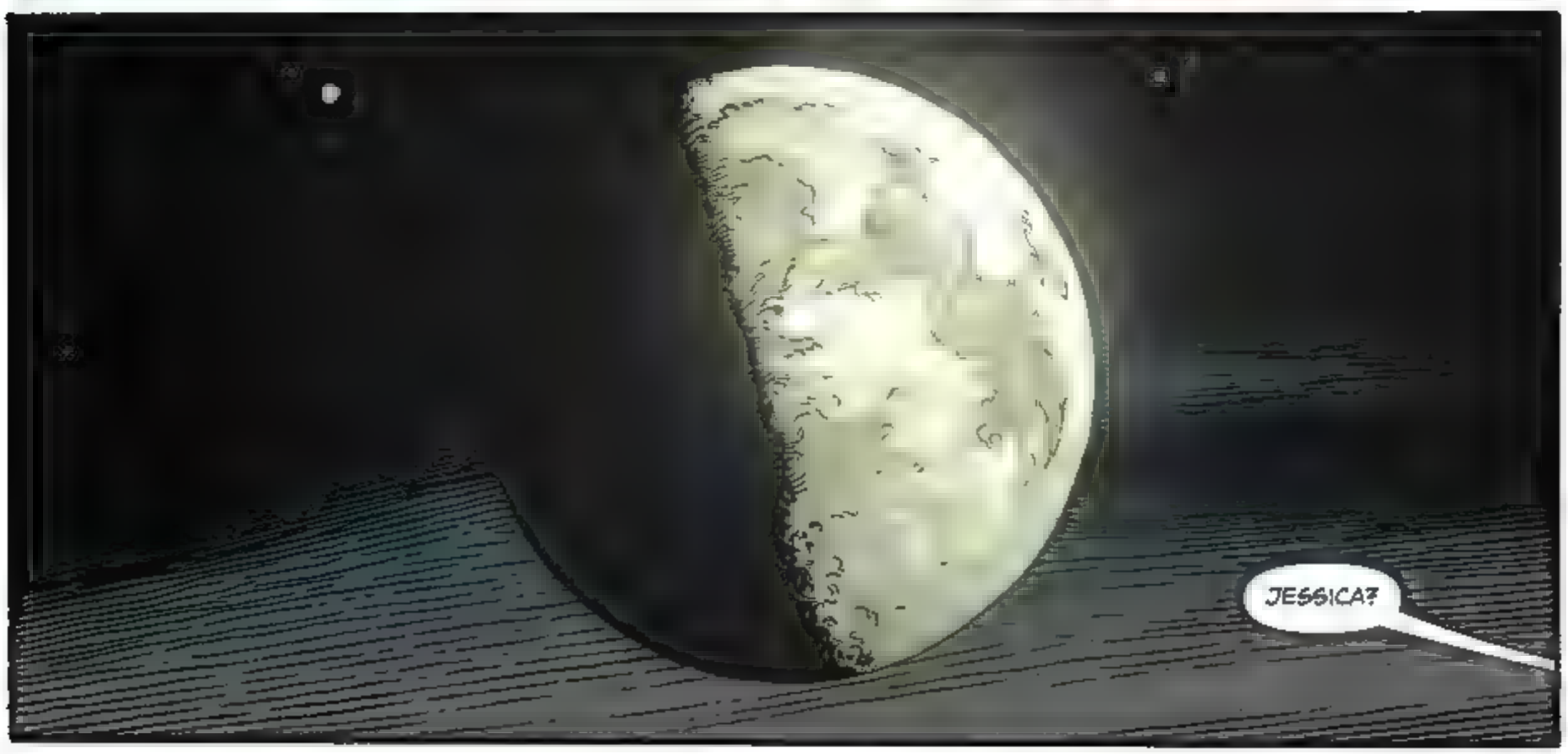
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

BATMAN?!

WHERE'S MY BROTHER?






JESSICA?

BRUCE? I MUST HAVE FALLEN ASLEEP. WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

WHY ARE YOU WEARING THAT IN MY OFFICE?

I WAS WAITING UNTIL LATER TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT THIS, BUT WHEN YOU WERE IN THE HOSPITAL, THE FIRST TIME YOU WOKE UP...

...YOU LOOKED AT ME WITH HATRED IN YOUR EYES.

AND YOU SAID, "STAY AWAY FROM MY SISTER, WAYNE."

I WHAT?

YOU SOUNDED LIKE YOUR *BROTHER*, JESSICA.

I'D HOPED IT WAS JUST A MOMENT OF *CONFUSION* OR *TRAUMA*, BUT SOMEONE TOLD ME *HARVEY DENT* IS BEHIND THE WEAPONS POURING INTO GOTHAM.

MY BROTHER'S DEAD.

I KNOW HE IS, BUT THE TRAUMA YOU EXPERIENCED, IT MAY HAVE DONE...

BZZD

BZZD

BZZD

BZZD

HARVEY DENT

KLK

HELLO?

HARVEY DENT

HEY, SIS.

HARVEY?

HE'S THERE WITH YOU, ISN'T HE, JESS?

THE BATMAN.

HIYA, WAYNE.

IT CAN'T BE HARVEY...

OH, I'M NOT ALL HERE. I'M **HALF DEAD**, SIS.

ROTTEN FLESH. ROTTEN SOUL. I THOUGHT I WAS CONDEMNED BY DESTINY, BURNED BY THE MEN I CONVICTED, BUT THEN I REALIZED, **NO**...

...I WAS GIVEN **A SECOND CHANCE** TO DO WHAT I SHOULD HAVE DONE YEARS AGO.

LEFT ALIVE FOR ONE **FINAL ACT** AS THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY: **TO CONVICT THE MOST GUILTY PARTY OF ALL**...

...GOTHAM CITY.

HARVEY, WHERE ARE YOU?

YOU WANT TO **REBUILD** GOTHAM, BUT IT'S ALREADY BEEN SENTENCED. AND THAT SENTENCE IS GOING TO BE CARRIED OUT VERY, VERY SOON.

THIS IS YOUR ONLY WARNING, JESSICA.

GET OUT BEFORE IT ALL BURNS...LIKE THEY BURNED ME.

HARVEY, WAIT. LET ME HELP YOU.

HARVEY?!

IT WASN'T HIM. IT COULDN'T HAVE BEEN.

THEN WHO **WAS** IT?

WHAT DID YOU FIND?

NOTHING. TRIED TO CALL-- IT'S DISCONNECTED. RUNG THE PHONE COMPANY, TOO...

...SAID THE NUMBER'S BEEN SHUT OFF FOR WEEKS.

SOMEONE'S POSING AS *HARVEY DENT.*

CAN YOU NOT DO THAT NEXT TIME? I ALMOST SHOT YOU.

SORRY.

YOU SAID SOMEONE'S POSING AS--?

HARVEY DENT. WHOEVER THEY ARE, THEY'RE THE ONE BRINGING THESE WEAPONS INTO GOTHAM.

WE'VE CHECKED THE HARBORS. THE WAREHOUSES. SO FAR, NOTHING.

DAMMIT.

THEY'RE USING HARVEY DENT'S PHONE, OR AT LEAST HIS NUMBER. EVEN THOUGH IT WAS SHUT OFF.

YOUR DAUGHTER HELPED US UNCOVER THE RIDDLER'S SHELL COMPANY. COULD SHE HELP US TRACE A PHONE THAT'S SUPPOSED TO BE OUT OF SERVICE?

BARBARA'S OVERSEAS FOR HER LAST SEMESTER, BUT I'LL TRY HER. SHE WON'T BE BACK IN THE COUNTRY UNTIL THE END OF THE MONTH.

THERE'S ONE MORE THING.

A RASH OF ROBBERIES ON THE UPPER WEST SIDE. SOME OF MY PEOPLE SAW A ***WOMAN*** DRESSED LIKE A ***CHESHIRE CAT.***

RIGHT.

FRIEND OF YOURS?

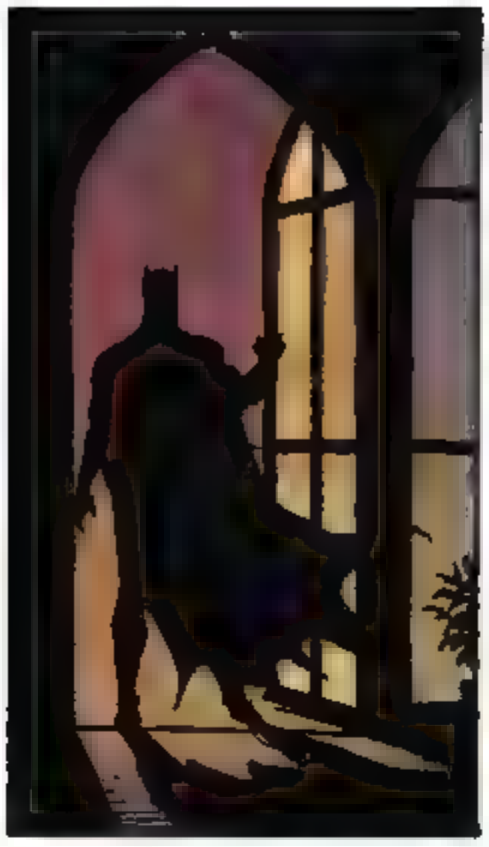
MAYBE.

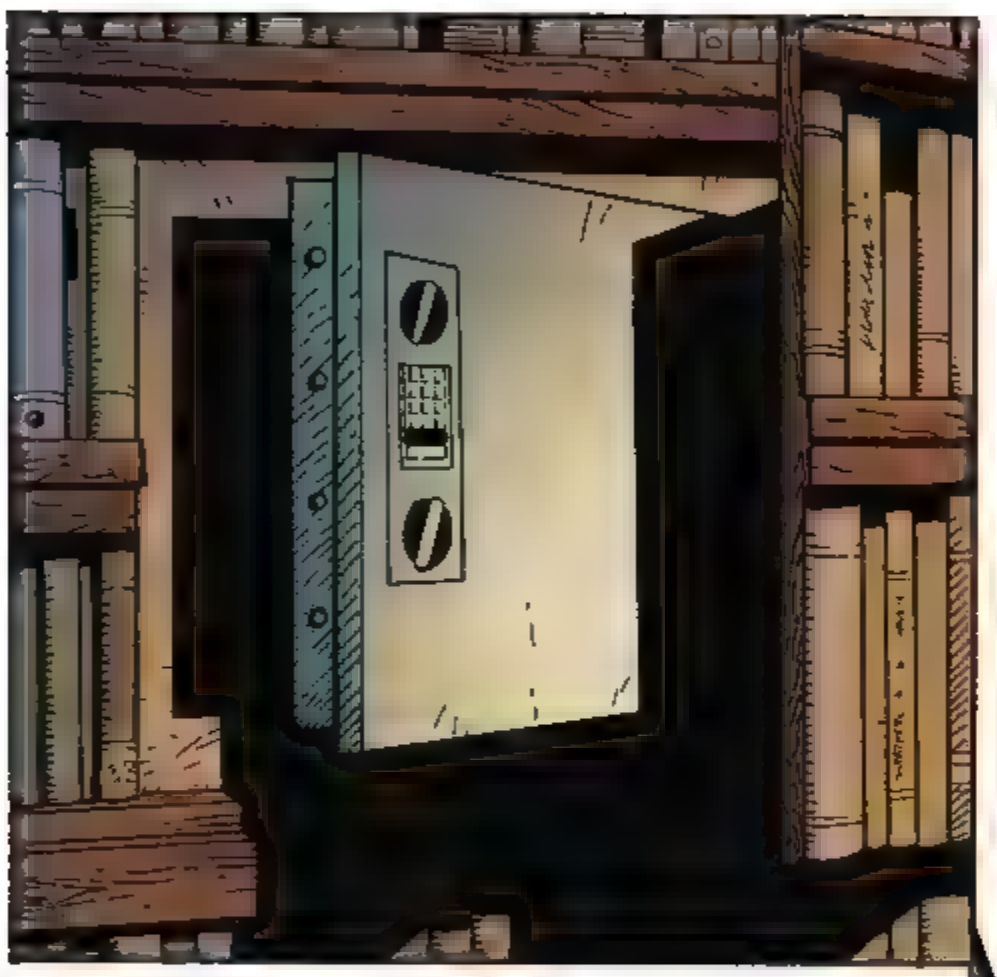
"MAYBE"?

YOU ASKED, I GOT. REPORTS OF ANOTHER ROBBERY ON THE UPPER WEST SIDE.

NOT ANOTHER L QUOR STORE.

NO. SILENT ALARM AT A PENTHOUSE APARTMENT ON THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF EIGHTY-NINTH AND TENTH.





FANCY SEEING YOU AGA N.

I'M GOING TO GLESS TH S ISN'T A COINC DENCE.

I FIGLRED.

IT'S NOT.

YOU DIDN'T SEEM *THAT* NTERESTED N ME LAST T.ME.

SO WHY BOTHER YOURSE_F WITH ME *NOW?*

SLOW NIGHT?

I NEED YOJR HELP.

MY HELP?

YOU OBVIOUSLY HEAR TH NGS I DON'T. YOU KNEW ABOUT THE WEAPONS DROP. THAT THEY'D HAVE MONEY THERE.

SO YOU MUST KNOW HOW THESE WEAPONS ARE COM NG NTO THE CITY. WHERE THEY ARE.

I DON'T KNOW WHERE THEY ARE.

BUT COULD YOU F ND OUT?

WHY WOULD I?

TO HELP GOTHAM.

LIKE YOU DO?

I DON'T DO NONPROFIT.

ALL RIGHT.

THAT'S TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS UP FRONT.

FORTY MORE WHEN YOU FIND THE WEAPONS.

CERTAINLY A MAN WHO CAN SPEND FIFTY THOUSAND ON ME CAN SPEND SEVENTY-FIVE.

DONE.

YOU'RE SERIOUS?

IF THAT'S WHAT IT TAKES.

WHO ARE YOU?

BRUCE, THERE'S TROUBLE AT THE HOUSE.

APPARENTLY, THE DRUGS THEY'VE GIVEN YOUR GRANDFATHER HAVE HELPED. HE WOKE UP. SEEMED LUCID.

BUT HE LEFT. HE'S GONE.

HE SAID SOMETHING ABOUT GOING HOME.

I'VE GOT TO GO.

THAT THE WIFE? OR A GIRLFRIEND?

WHEN YOU FIND SOMETHING, YOU CAN CALL ME WITH THIS.

...

YOU ACTUALLY PUT A *BAT* ON IT?

WAYNE MANOR

STEP AWAY FROM THE LEDGE, ADRIAN.
BRUCE..
...MY DEATH IS THE ONLY WAY TO PROTECT YOU.

"THE ONLY WAY TO SAVE YOU FROM THEIR RAGE."

HELLO?

HARVEY? IS THIS REALLY YOU?

WHERE ARE YOU?

PLEASE, TELL ME.

I CAN'T LEAVE GOTHAM. I WON'T.

HARVEY?

. I LOVE YOU TOO

"THEY WANT YOU DEAD, BRUCE."

WHO WANTS ME DEAD, GRANDFATHER?

THE EVIL SPIRITS OF GOTHAM.

YOU'RE REFERRING TO THE ARKHAM CURSE.

THEN YOU'VE READ THE BOOKS?

SOME OF THEM. THERE WERE PAGES MISSING FROM THE OLDEST.

I *BURNED* THEM AFTER MY FATHER DIED.

I THOUGHT HE WAS CRAZY. THE CRAZIEST OF ALL THE ARKHAMS. WE SHOULDN'T BE TALKING ABOUT THIS. THEY'RE LISTENING.

WHO ARE?

IT... IT STARTED OVER THREE CENTURIES AGO.

"...WHEN ABRAHAM ARKHAM AND HIS FAMILY LEFT THE OLD WORLD.

"HIRED BY THE WAYNES, ABRAHAM FOUND WORK AS AN ARCHITECT AND CITY PLANNER.

"HE SENT FOR THE REST OF HIS FAMILY, AND THE ARKHAMS BUILT GOTHAM.

"BUT ONE DAY, BENEATH THE CITY.. THEY FOUND SOMETHING."

ABRAHAM!

SKREE

SKREE

SKREEE

SKREE

SKREEE

SKREE

SKREEE

SKREE

SKREEE

SKREE

SKREE

THE ARKHAMS WERE DRIVEN MAD, BITTEN BY THE EVIL SPIRITS OF THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO DIED ON THE LAND WE WERE BUILDING OVER.

THE MADNESS TAKES EVERY GENERATION OF ARKHAMS. AT SOME POINT. IN SOME WAY...

D.D YOUR MOTHER EVER TELL YOU SHE HAD A TWIN BROTHER?

...NO.

WE WERE SO HAPPY AT THE PROSPECT.

WE WERE GOING TO NAME HIM ***BRUCE.***

BUT HE DIED IN THE WOMB.

THE DOCTORS SAVED MARTHA, BUT HER MOTHER WAS NEVER THE SAME AFTER THAT. SHE WAS CONVINCED THE CURSE WAS REAL.

SHE BELIEVED THE EVIL SPIRITS COERCED MARTHA INTO KILLING HER TWIN BROTHER.

AT TIMES, THE DOCTORS HELPED MY WIFE OVERCOME THE MADNESS. THOUGH SHE WAS SEDATED, SHE WAS AT LEAST CALM.

WE WERE A FAMILY FOR A TIME.

UNTIL YOUR MOTHER'S TENTH BIRTHDAY.

MY WIFE GOT HOLD OF A GUN. SHE CRIED OUT, LOOKING FOR MARTHA. BLAMING HER FOR BRUCE'S DEATH.

"I HID MARTHA IN THE WALLS.

YOUR GRANDMOTHER SHOT ME WHEN I TRIED TO TAKE THE GUN.

THEN SHE JUMPED OFF THE ROOF.

...IT HURTS TO SEE IT AGAIN.

I SURVIVED. BUT I COULDN'T STAY.

I HAD TO KEEP FAR AWAY FROM MARTHA.

I HOPED THAT WOULD PROTECT HER FROM THE CITY OF MADNESS.

BUT GOTHAM FOUND HER.

GOTHAM KILLED HER!

ADRIAN, GET AWAY FROM THE LEDGE...

I TRIED TO FOOL THE SPIRITS BEFORE. IF I WAS BURIED IN A COFFIN, THEY WOULD'VE FOUND IT EMPTY...

...SO I MADE SURE I HAD ASHES TO SPREAD.

LET MY GRANDSON BE! TAKE *MY* LIFE, NOT *HIS!*

NO!

I CAN HELP YOU.

PLEASE.

WE'RE TRAPPED IN THE MAZE OF MADNESS WITH THEM.

IN THE CURSE OF THE BAT.

WHATEVER'S HAPPENED IN THE PAST, WHATEVER YOU'RE DEALING WITH NOW, WE CAN FACE IT TOGETHER.

WE'RE FAMILY.

PLEASE, GRANDFATHER.

YOU'RE THE ONLY FAMILY I HAVE LEFT.

I'M SICK, AREN'T I?

I'M GOING TO DO WHATEVER I CAN TO HELP YOU GET BETTER.

"D D YOU BRING THE SHOVELS?"

YES, BUT I'M AFRA D TO ASK WHY.

I'M NOT. WHAT ARE WE DOING?

RFF!

DID YOU HAVE TO BR NG THE BLOODY DOG?

HE'S MY BUDDY.

MY GRANDFATHER SAID SOMETH NG ABOUT TRYING TO FOOL THE "EVIL SP.RITS" HAUNTING HIM BY SPREADING FAKE ASHES, LEAVING AN EMPTY COFFIN.

BUT HARVEY DENT'S BODY WAS BURIED, NOT CREMATED.

SO F SOMEONE'S POSING AS H M...

...THIS WILL PROVE IT.

HARVEY DENT

Beloved Brother and Friend

SO WHAT NOW, BRUCE?

DOES THIS MEAN HARVEY DENT'S ALIVE?

BRUCE?

THE CAT

IT'S ME.

AND IT'S ME.

HOTEL

AND A COUPLE FRIENDS.

I'VE GOT SOME INTEL.

MEET US AT ARKHAM STATION.

US?

CAN'T WAIT TO MEET *YOUR* FRIENDS.

EXIT

HARVEY?

I WON'T LET BRUCE SUFFER LIKE YOU DID, MY LITTLE GIRL.

I'M GOING TO BURN WHAT WE BUILT DOWN TO THE GROUND...

"...UNTIL THERE'S NOTHING LEFT."

UH... HI.

A BAT. A CAT. AND A CROCOD.LE.

I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE WHAT'S NEXT.

VERY NICE. IF YOU LIKE DARK, WET, AND STUFFY.

YOU COULD REALLY USE SOME COLOR IN HERE. OR IS THAT WHAT I'M FOR?

RRF

THERE'S A CUTE FACE!

WHAT'S YOUR NAME, BOY?

WHAT DO YOU KNOW?

THAT'S HOW YOU GREET SOMEONE? "WHAT DO YOU KNOW?"

HOW ABOUT "THANKS FOR COMING!"

OR "DO YOU WANT ANYTHING TO DRINK? I MAKE A MEAN MARGARITA!"

THANKS FOR COMING.

I GUESS THAT'S A "NO" ON THE DRINK?

YOU'VE MET WAYLON. AND THE DOG.

THIS IS ALFRED.

NOW THAT WE'VE GOT THAT OUT OF THE WAY, WHAT DID YOU FIND OUT?

MY TURN TO GET TO THE *POINT*: WHERE'S THE REST OF MY MONEY?

OKAY.

SHE'S GETTIN' *PAID* FOR THIS?

THE *WEAPONS* WILL BE CROSSING INTO GOTHAM TONIGHT.

AND AS SOON AS THEY GET *DISTRIBUTED*, HARVEY DENT IS GOING TO LIGHT THE SIGNAL.

WHAT SIGNAL?

SOME SIGNAL FOR EVERYONE TO GATHER TOGETHER, BECOME DENT'S *ARMY*.

AND THEN WHAT?

WHAT DO ARMIES DO, AL? THEY GO TO *WAR*.

I'LL NOTIFY GOTHAM PD.

HA.

WHO DO YOU THINK IS ESCORTING THE TRUCK IN?

THERE'S A COP I TRUST.

YOU BETTER BE SURE YOU DO.

WHOEVER THIS COP IS, HE ALERTS THE *WRONG* PERSON IN THE PRECINCT THAT WE KNOW ABOUT TONIGHT...

"...AND HE'S A DEAD MAN."

LET ME SEE YOU, HARVEY.

NO.

I KNOW YOU'RE IN PAIN. YOU'RE SCARED AND CONFUSED.

I AM, TOO.

YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN THERE FOR ME. SINCE WE WERE CHILDREN. I WANT TO BE THERE FOR YOU.

WHAT ABOUT BRUCE?

HARVEY, BRUCE S MY *FRIEND*.

YOU'RE MY *BROTHER*.

I'LL GO F RST.

HARVEY?

"HARVEY DENT IS ALIVE."

"I DON'T KNOW WHERE HE IS, JIM, BUT HE'S GOING TO *LIGHT* SOME KIND OF SIGNAL TO DEPLOY THE CRIMINALS HE'S ARMED."

"WHEN?"

POLICE

"THE LAST SHIPMENT IS COMING INTO GOTHAM TONIGHT...

BOYS

GIRLS

SCHOTT'S TOYS

"...FROM AN ARMS DEALER IN METROPOLIS.

"WITH ENOUGH WEAPONS TO TURN GOTHAM CITY INTO A *WAR ZONE.*"

AR-30

ANGER

RPG-7

EXPL

Gotham City
13 miles

MY C.I. TOLD ME THE TRUCK WILL HAVE A *POLICE ESCORT.*

HOW DO WE STOP IT?

WE CAN'T.

WE CAN'T?

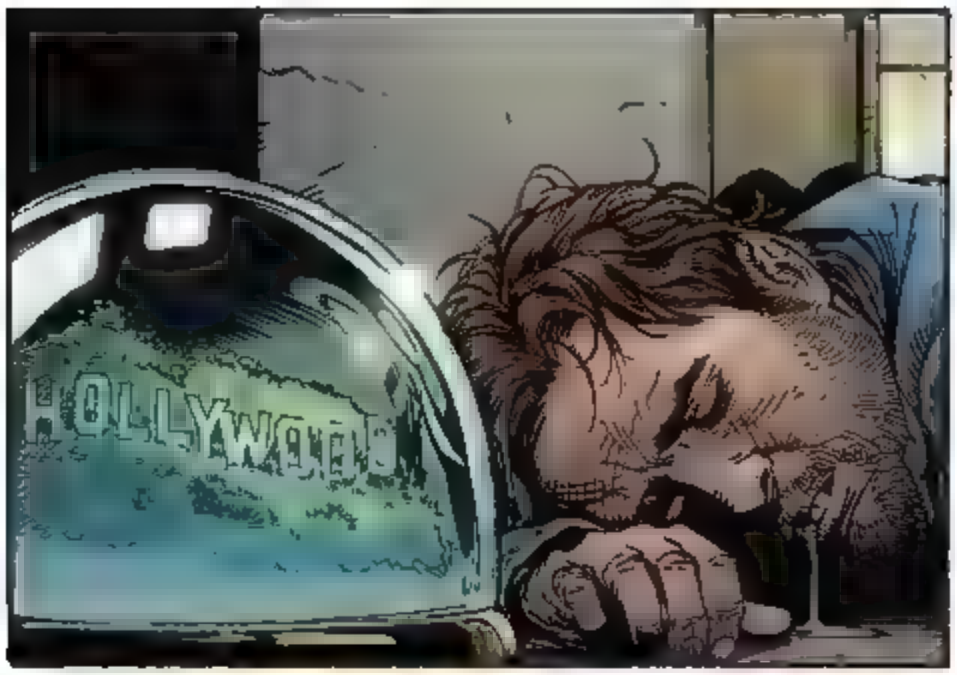
"WE HAVE NO IDEA WHAT ROUTE IT'S TAKING INTO GOTHAM."

SO WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO?

FIND HARVEY DENT BEFORE HE TURNS ON THE SIGNAL.

AND, JIM... THERE'S STILL PEOPLE THERE YOU CAN'T TRUST.

TAKE SOMEONE YOU KNOW WILL HAVE YOUR BACK.


HOLLYWOOD

BULLOCK?

WHUH?
JIMBO? WHAT IS IT?

GRAB YOUR COAT.

SO YOU GOT THE COP, THE CAT, AND THE CROCODILE OUT LOOKING FOR HARVEY.

PUT ME THROUGH TO JESS CA.

WHAT AM I, YOUR BLOODY SECRETARY?

JUST DO IT, ALFRED.

WHEN DO WE GET PAID?

19

AS SOON AS THE TRUCK GETS INTO GOTHAM.

HOW MUCH?

ENOUGH TO LEAVE GOTHAM CITY BEHIND.

WHERE ARE WE GOIN', JIMBO?

TO FIND HARVEY DENT.

"WHAT ARE YOU DOING, HARVEY?"

GOTHAM IS LOST, JESSICA.

"LIKE SODOM AND GOMORRAH, THERE IS NO SAVING IT.

"IT WAS *DESTINED* TO SELF-DESTRUCT...LIKE BRUCE WAYNE'S FAMILY.

"THEY BUILT A *CITY OF MADNESS.*"

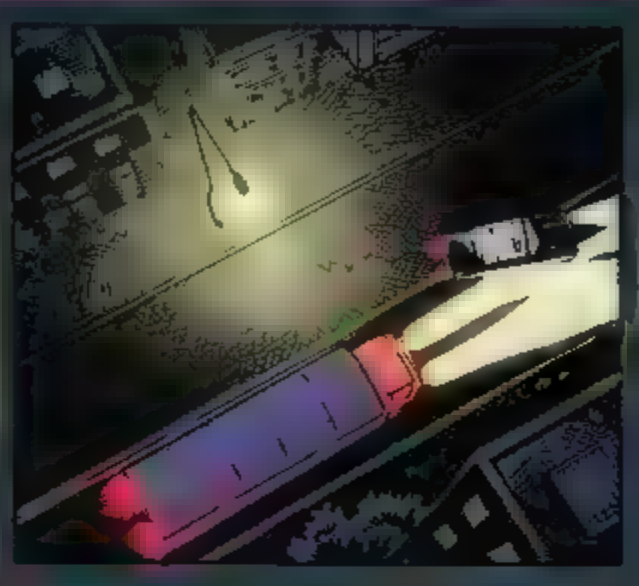
ALFRED?

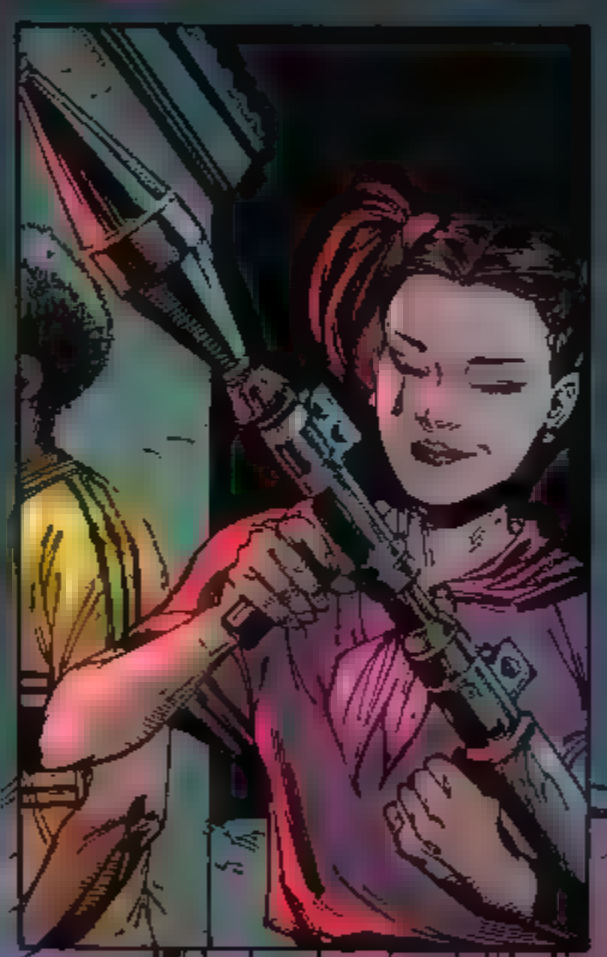
THERE'S NO ANSWER.

"THEN *TRACE* HER PHONE. SHE'S *SOMEWHERE* IN GOTHAM."

SCHOTT'S
TOYS

THERE HE S.





"I KNOW YOU'RE HERE."
SCHOTT'S
TOYS

I CAN FEEL YOU AROUND ME.

HAUNTING THESE WICKED GROUNDS OUR FAMILY TRAMPLED OVER.

...BUT I WILL STOP YOUR *INSANITY* FROM TAKING MY *GRANDSON'S LIFE.*

THE MADNESS YOU *CURSED* MY ANCESTORS WITH HAS TAKEN SO MANY FROM ME...

"I WILL STOP THE *SPIRITS* THAT STARTED THIS *CURSE.*"

HEY, PENNYWORTH.

YOU SEEIN' THIS?

I SEE IT, CROC.

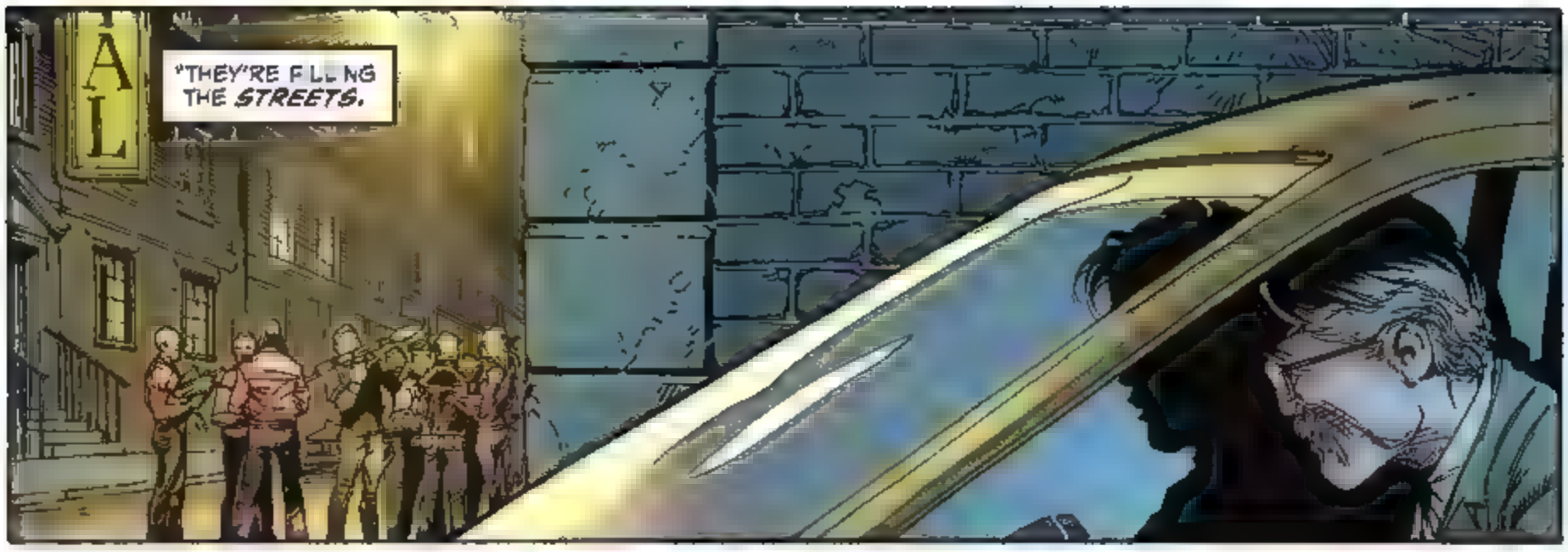
ME TOO.

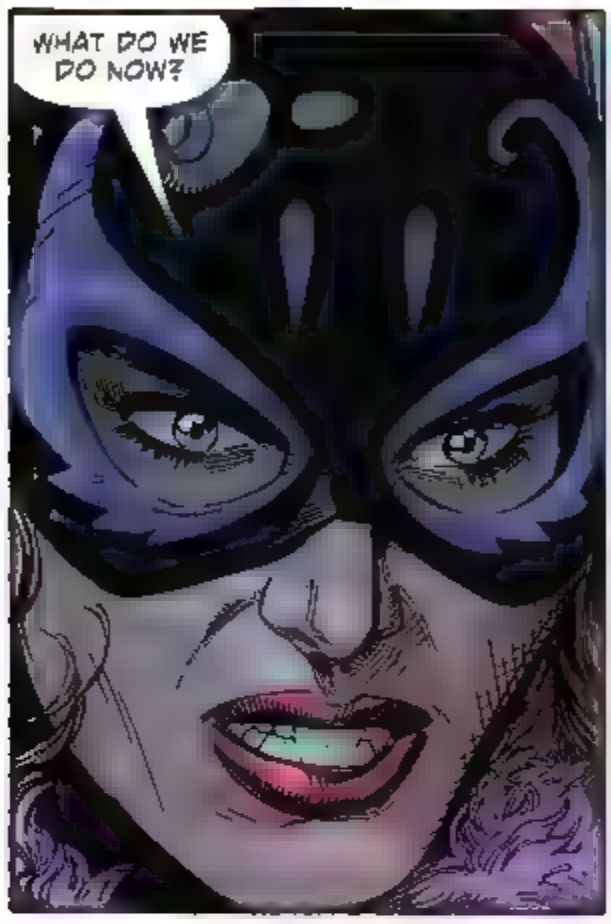
THE WEAPONS ARE HERE. DENT'S ARMY IS LOCKED AND LOADED.

WE'RE TOO LATE.

THE SIGNAL'S ON.

WHERE ARE WE GOING? HARVEY?.


"THEY'RE F LL NG THE STREETS.


WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

BRUCE, IT'S JUST YOU AND ME ON THE LINE.
WHAT IS IT, ALFRED?

I TRACED JESSICA'S PHONE.

EEEEET

HARVEY, PLEASE...

I CAN GET YOU HELP.

YOU *NEED* HELP.

AAAH!

AFTER ALL OF THIS, YOU CHOSE WAYNE OVER ME.

THAT RICH, CREEPY FREAK WAS MORE IMPORTANT TO YOU THAN YOUR OWN BROTHER!

ONCE I BURY HIM AND HIS CITY...

...I'M GOING TO BURY YOU.

FWOOSH

KRKKOOM

BRUCE!

MY BROTHER...

I KNOW.

HE'S ALIVE.

WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT?

A ROCKET LAUNCHER.

BZZD

BARBARA?

DAD? ARE YOU OKAY? I SAW GOTHAM ON THE NEWS AND...

"...THE PHONE CALL TO JESS CA DENT.

"I TRACED IT, DAD.

IT'S NOT HARVEY DENT.

IT'S OVER, HARVEY!

I...I DON'T UNDERSTAND...

WAYNE...

YOU KILLED ME.

AND NOW I'M GOING TO TEAR DOWN EVERYTHING YOUR CRAZY FAMILY BUILT WITH THE WEAPONS THAT KILLED YOUR PARENTS.

WITH *LOTS* AND *LOTS* OF *GUNS*.

JESSICA?

SHE'S IN *HERE*, WAYNE.

WITH *ME*.

YOU REMEMBER WHEN WE WERE KIDS? I KICKED YOUR ASS RIGHT ON THIS DIRT.

I'M GOING TO DO IT AGAIN.

JESSICA...

YOU'RE CONFUSED.

NO, WAYNE.

IT'S *YOU* WHO'S CONFUSED.

IT'S ALMOST OVER, ADRIAN.

I HOPE SO.

"NO ONE EXPECTED THIS TONIGHT."

GOTHAM HAS BEEN OVERWHELMED BY A **UNIFICATION** BETWEEN ITS **GANGS** AND WHAT'S LEFT OF ITS **CRIME FAMILIES**...

...BOTH ARMED WITH THE **SAME CLASS OF DEADLY WEAPONS** THAT HAVE MYSTERIOUSLY FOUND THEIR WAY ONTO OUR STREETS OVER **RECENT WEEKS.**

THE **VIOLENCE** HAS ALREADY LEFT **DOZENS** OF BUILDINGS **BURNING.** THE NUMBER OF **WOUNDED** AND **DEAD** REMAINS UNKNOWN AT THIS TIME.

POLICE ARE EVACUATING AFFECTED NEIGHBORHOODS IN HOPES OF **CONTAINING** THE **CHAOS.**

THE NATURE OF THIS **ASSAULT** REMAINED A **MYSTERY** UNTIL **NEWS STATIONS** ACROSS GOTHAM RECEIVED A **RECORDED MESSAGE** ONLY MINUTES AGO.

ONE CLAIMING TO BE FROM THE LATE DISTRICT ATTORNEY **HARVEY DENT.**

BLIMEY...YOU HEARING THIS, BRUCE?

BRUCE?

HELLO, GOTHAM.

THIS IS **HARVEY DENT.** SPEAKING TO YOU FROM BEYOND THE **GRAVE** YOU TRIED TO **BURY** ME IN.

YOUR CITY HAS BEEN **JUDGED.**

NOW THE **SENTENCE** IS BEING **CARRIED OUT.**

DEATH.

CAT, YOU THERE?

I'M A LITTLE BUSY, BUT I HEAR YOU.

"CROC?"

DITTO.

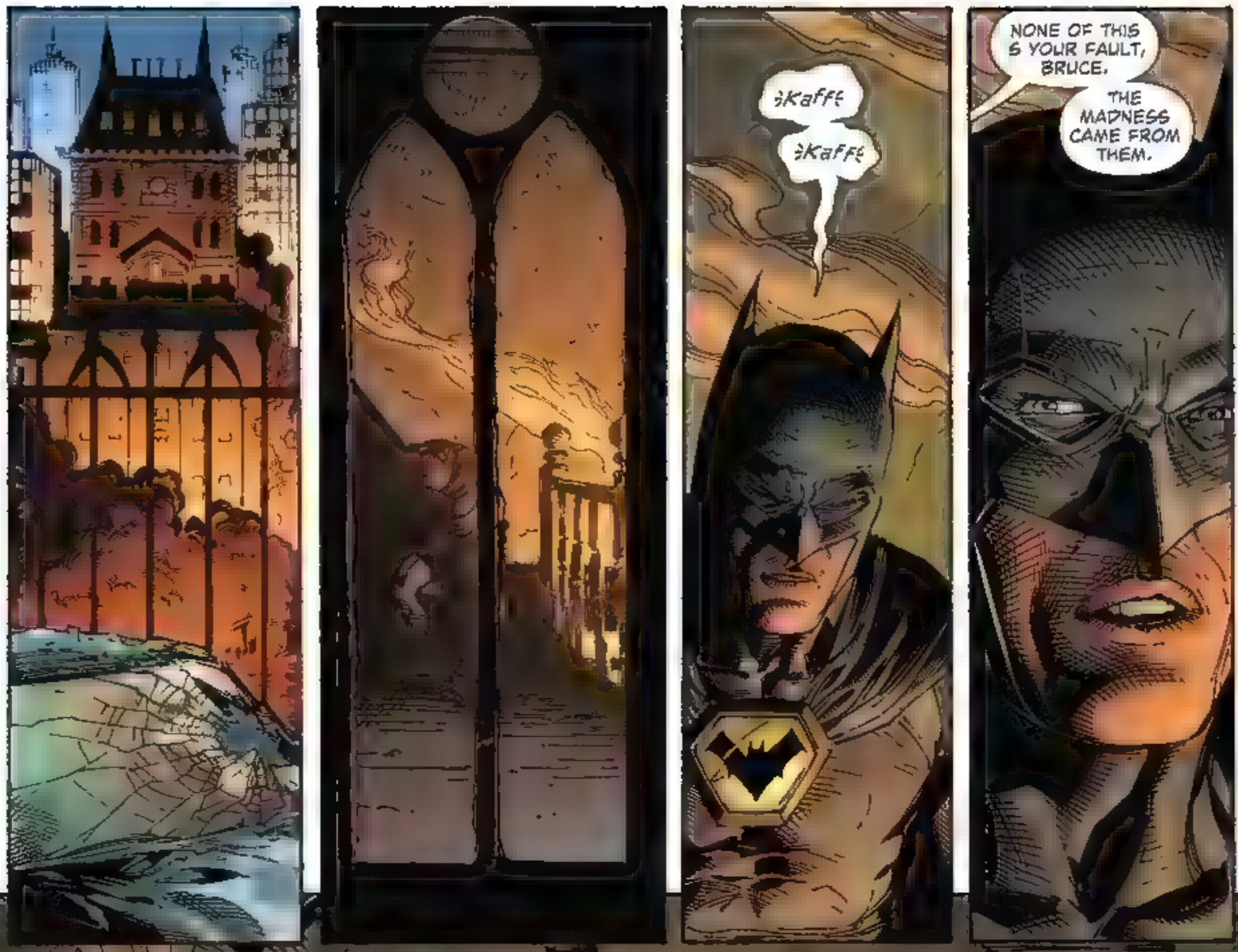
YIP

I KNOW I GOTTA CALL HIM ***NEXT,*** YA DAMN MUTT.

HELLO? GORDON?

I GOT YOUR NUMBER FROM A ***MUTUAL FRIEND.***

I THINK HE NEEDS SOME HELP.


NONE OF THIS IS YOUR FAULT, BRUCE.
THE MADNESS CAME FROM THEM.
FROM THE BATS.

GRANDFATHER?

I DON'T UNDERSTAND. WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

I'M SAVING YOU FROM THE *EVIL* THAT HAS TAKEN OUR FAMILY *ONE BY ONE.*

I THOUGHT IF I LET GOTHAM *BELIEVE* I WAS DEAD, IT MIGHT SATISFY THE SPIRITS AND MARTHA WOULD BE LEFT ALONE. AND THOUGH SHE STRUGGLED, SHE *WAS* FOR A TIME.

THOMAS TOOK GREAT CARE OF HER WHEN SHE HAD HER BAD TIMES. YOUR FATHER HELPED HER FIND HAPPINESS.

BUT GOTHAM WAS ONLY TOYING WITH HER. IT *KILLED* YOUR PARENTS, LEAVING ONLY *YOU.* THE *LAST* OF THE *ARKHAMS.*

AND NOW THE CITY HAS TAKEN *POSSESSION* OF YOU.

YOU HAVE BECOME THE EMBODIMENT OF THE *ARKHAM CURSE,* BRUCE. THE *MADNESS.*

THE BATMAN.

YOUR GRANDFATHER'S RIGHT, WAYNE.

GOTHAM IS AT FAULT HERE.

DON'T GET ME WRONG, I HATE YOU FOR THE PAIN YOU INFLICTED ON MY SISTER, BUT YOU'RE NOT ENTIRELY TO BLAME.

YOUR GRANDFATHER IS HELPING ME BURN THIS DOWN. LIKE HE HELPED ME KEEP WATCH OVER YOU. SHARED THE SECRETS OF THE CITY. YOUR FAMILY.

IT'S SO *TRAGIC.*

JESSICA, PLEASE.

HARVEY IS HERE, BRUCE. JESSICA IS *GONE.*

THERE IS *NO* LOVE FOR YOU. *ONLY HATE...*

ONLY...

BRUCE?

Mmmf.

NNG.

YOU STAY IN YOUR *PLACE*, JESS CA.

WHAT DOES YOUR BROTHER WANT?

YOU'RE TALKING TO HIM, *WAYNE.*

AND *WE* WANT THIS CITY *WIPED OFF THE MAP.*

WE NEED TO RETURN TH.S LAND TO THE SPIRITS THAT DEMAND IT.

TO FREE YOUR *SOUL.*

THE EV L SPIRITS ARE FESTER NG INS DE YOU, BRUCE.

WE NEED TO GET THEM OUT.

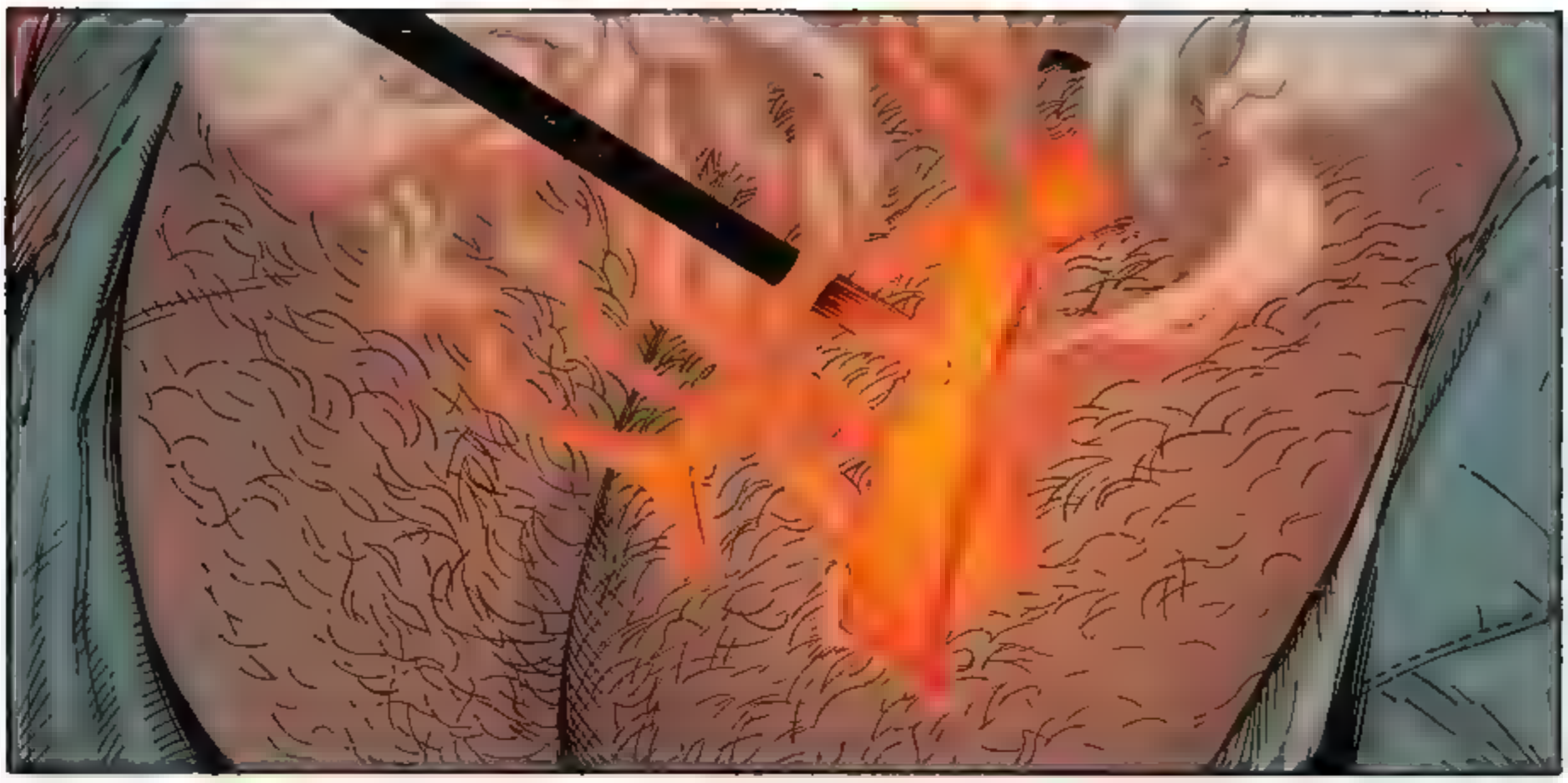
HOW ARE YOU PLANNING ON DOING THAT?

WITH F RE.

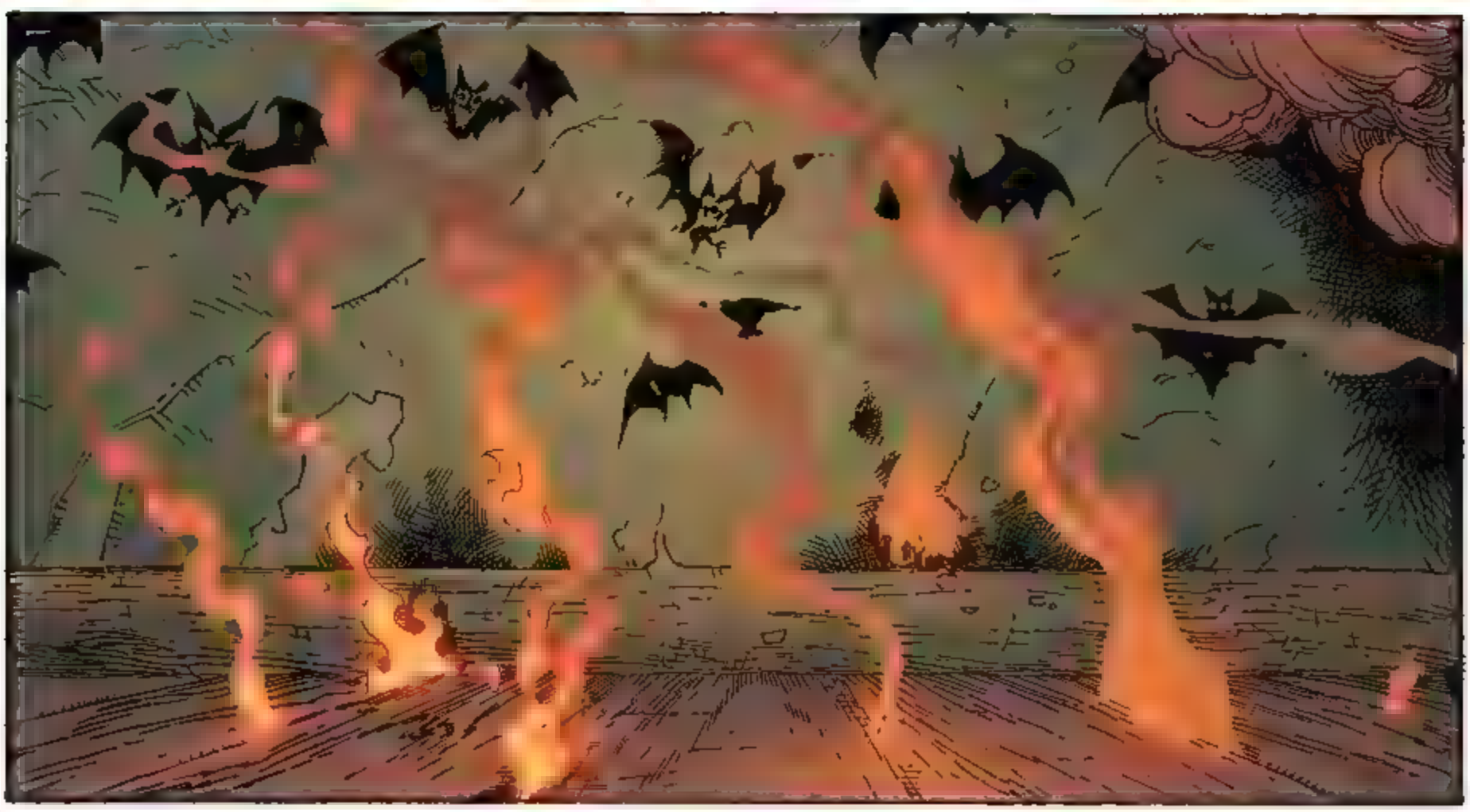
DON'T...

YOU'LL BE REBORN.

LIKE THE PHOENIX.



YAARRG!



I...

YOU NEED HELP.

BRUCE?

AGAIN.

DO IT AGAIN.

KTCH

NO!

YOU... YOU NEED HELP.

BOTH OF YOU.

I DON'T NEED YOUR GRANDFATHER ANYMORE, WAYNE.

OR YOU.

WAP

I EXPECT A *BONUS* FOR THIS, BATSY.

ADRIAN!

ABANDON THE BAT BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE.

SAVE YOURSELF!

AAAEEE!!

NO!!

NO.

IT'S ALL GO.NG TO BURN.

JESS CA?

JESSICA, WAIT!

TH.S WHOLE PLACE IS COMING DOWN.

WE NEED TO GET OUT OF HERE.

BATMAN?!

DAMMIT.

JESSICA?

LOOK AT IT, WAYNE.

THE END OF THE EVIL.

YOUR FAMILY NEVER SHOULD HAVE BUILT GOTHAM. IT'S BROUGHT ONLY MISERY. BUT IT'LL BE ASHES SOON.

IT'S NOT OVER YET.

"THE POLICE AND THE FIREFIGHTERS ARE OUT THERE."

BULLOCK? YOU COMING?

I CAN'T GO BACK IN ARKHAM, JIM.

I'M SORRY, BUT I CAN'T.

AND MY ALLIES AND I WILL BE OUT THERE. WE'LL TAKE THEIR GUNS. IT WON'T BE EASY, BUT WE'LL DO IT.

WHY ARE YOU STILL FIGHTING TO PROTECT THE CITY THAT *KILLED* YOUR FAMILY?

SHUT UP.

LIKE MY PARENTS.

HARVEY DEDICATED HIS LIFE TO PROTECTING THIS CITY, SO DID YOU.

BECAUSE YOU KNOW IT'S NOT ABOUT BUILDINGS AND STREETS. IT'S ABOUT PEOPLE.

JESSICA CAN'T HEAR YOU.

JESSICA, HARVEY'S DEAD.

YOUR BROTHER IS DEAD.

YES, YOU CAN. I KNOW YOU CAN. I'M HERE FOR YOU. ALWAYS.

I *PROMISE* YOU THAT, JESSICA. I WILL NEVER LEAVE YOU.

I LOVE YOU.

STAY AWAY FROM MY SISTER, WAYNE.

Nnn.

BRUCE? I CAN'T STOP HIM.

NO.

YOU CAN'T... CAN'T...

HARVEY'S BEEN DISTRACTING EVERYONE. YOU, THE GUNS...

THE ***TRUCK*** THAT BROUGHT THEM INTO GOTHAM IS WIRED WITH ***EXPLOSIVES.*** IT'S AT WAYNE PARK. AND IT'S SET TO GO OFF AT MIDNIGHT, BUT YOU CAN STOP IT. YOU HAVE TIME.

SHUT UP!

ALFRED?

AYE. WAYNE PARK.

BRUCE?

I LOVE YOU TOO

JESSICA!

GGF!

WAYLON?

DON'T WORRY, PAL.

I GOT THE POOR GIRL.

IT'S NOT OVER.

YOU CAN'T ESCAPE THE FAMILY CURSE.

BRUCE.

BRUUUCE!

YAAAAHHH!

I AM ADRIAN ARKHAM.

I AM... YOUR DEATH.

NNTT!

I AMMFFF.

ESSSHHHHH

HEY.

YOUR FRIEND CALLED ME.

WHO THE HELL IS THAT?

"IT CAN ONLY BE DESCRIBED AS UNTHINKABLE.

THE EXPLOSIVES THAT WERE DISCOVERED AT WAYNE PARK WERE CAPABLE OF DESTROYING SEVERAL CITY BLOCKS.

WHO DISABLED THEM AND LEFT THE ARMS DEALER LOCKED UP FOR THE POLICE IS STILL UP FOR DEBATE, ALTHOUGH MANY ARE SPECULATING IT WAS THE BATMAN.

I DON'T GET NO CREDIT.

JIM GORDON, CONSIDERED THE KEY FIGURE IN QUELLING THE RIOTS LAST WEEK AND KNOWN FOR BEING IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH THE BATMAN, WAS ELEVATED TO DEPUTY POLICE CHIEF TODAY.

AS WE CONTINUE TO FIND AND DESTROY THE WEAPONS THAT WERE BROUGHT INTO GOTHAM, I ASK ALL OF YOU TO REMAIN VIGILANT.

THE WAR IS NOT OVER.

I'LL TAKE ANOTHER.

MAYOR DENT'S ROLE IN THE RIOTS OF GOTHAM IS STILL UNCLEAR.

RUMORS HAVE GROWN THAT SHE WAS INVOLVED, IF NOT INSTRUMENTAL, IN THE WEAPONS SUPPLY THAT FED GOTHAM'S GANGS.

NO OFFICIAL COMMENT HAS BEEN MADE, BUT MAYOR DENT HAS BEEN COMMITTED TO THE GOTHAM MENTAL HOSPITAL.

IN OTHER NEWS, THE MAN WHO WAS SAID TO BE BRUCE WAYNE'S GRANDFATHER HAS BEEN REVEALED TO BE AN IMPOSTOR.

"IF THIS MAN ISN'T ADRIAN ARKHAM...

...WHO IS HE?

WELL, MR. WAYNE, WE'RE NOT COMPLETELY SURE, BUT...

...WHAT THE TECHS IN THE LAB *DO* KNOW IS THAT HIS *SKIN* HAS BEEN ALTERED SOMEHOW, FUSED WITH A COMPOUND THAT NO ONE HAS BEEN ABLE TO IDENTIFY.

IT'S GIVEN HIS FLESH A... MALLEABLE QUALITY.

THE DOCTORS WHO WE'VE SPOKEN TO THINK IT COULD BE THE RESULT OF SOME KIND OF *EXPERIMENTAL PLASTIC SURGERY* OR *CHEMICAL EXPOSURE* OR EVEN A *BIRTH DEFECT*. THEY CAN'T RULE ANYTHING OUT.

AS FOR HIS IDENTITY, WHEN HIS FINGERPRINTS WERE MORE CLOSELY EXAMINED, WE DISCOVERED ANOTHER *LAYER* UNDERNEATH THE ONES HE CURRENTLY HAS.

UNDER *THAT* LAYER, WE FOUND THE PRINTS OF A *DISGRACED ACTOR* NAMED *BASIL KARLO*. KARLO VANISHED DECADES AGO AFTER BECOMING A PRIME SUSPECT IN THE MURDER OF A CO-STAR.

KARLO WAS AS DEEP AS WE COULD GO. EVERYTHING BEYOND THAT WAS UNREADABLE.

THE PRINTS WERE OF A FAIRLY RENOWNED SCIENTIST NAMED *PRESTON PAYNE*. HE VANISHED THREE YEARS AGO AFTER EMBEZZLING *TENS* OF *MILLIONS* OF DOLLARS FROM S.T.A.R. LABS.

HIS WIFE SWORE PAYNE WAS ACTING LIKE A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT PERSON IN THE WEEKS LEADING UP TO HIS DISAPPEARANCE.

SO HIS NAME IS PRESTON PAYNE?

NO.

BECAUSE UNDERNEATH *THOSE* FINGERPRINTS THERE WAS ANOTHER LAYER. A MUSEUM CURATOR NAMED *MATT HAGEN* WHO ALSO DISAPPEARED AFTER A PRICELESS ARTIFACT WAS STOLEN.

HAGEN HAD NO PRIOR CRIMINAL RECORD.

WE'VE FOUND EVIDENCE HE WAS TRACKED DOWN BY JESSICA ..OR HER HARVEY DENT PERSONA...AND HIRED TO IMPERSONATE YOUR GRANDFATHER.

WE THINK IN EXCHANGE, HE WAS GOING TO GAIN ACCESS TO YOUR ASSETS. WAYNE ENTERPRISES, EVERYTHING.

HASN'T SPOKEN SINCE WE BROUGHT HIM IN.

HE'S PROBABLY FORGOTTEN WHO HE REALLY IS.

I'M SORRY, I CAN'T IMAGINE HOW VIOLATING THIS IS.

IT'S DISAPPOINTING.

GORDON?

SORRY TO INTERRUPT, BUT IT'S BULLOCK AGAIN. HE GOT INTO AN ALTERCATION WITH A BARTENDER.

IT'S NOT EVEN *NOON*.

HELLO, JESSICA.

I'VE MADE SURE THAT YOU'LL HAVE THE ABSOLUTE *BEST* CARE AVAILABLE.

AND I'M GOING TO FINISH THE HARVEY DENT HOUSE FOR THE HOMELESS AND THE *OTHER PROGRAMS* WE HAD PLANNED.

THE WORK YOU STARTED WILL BE SEEN THROUGH.

I'LL BE VISITING EVERY SUNDAY MORNING.

MY FATHER NEVER GAVE UP ON MY MOTHER. I'LL NEVER GIVE UP ON YOU.

OH, WAYNE. THAT'S SO *SWEET.*

BUT IT'S TOO LATE FOR THAT TRATOROUS *BITCH.*

JESSICA IS GONE FOREVER!

HARVEY IS HERE TO *STAY.*

"THIS IS FAR FROM OVER, BRUCE."

YOU'VE GOT TWENTY PERCENT OF THE BUILDINGS IN THIS CITY IN A STATE OF DISREPAIR, IF NOT OUTRIGHT ***BURNED DOWN*** AFTER THE RIOTS. JUST LIKE ARKHAM MANOR.

THE CHIEF OF POLICE RESIGNED.

THE CRIMINALS ARE GETTIN' MORE THEATRICAL.

MORE DANGEROUS.

A LOT OF THE MONEY IN THIS CITY HAS PICKED UP AND LEFT.

IS THAT WHAT YOU'RE SAYING WE SHOULD DO NOW, ALFRED? LEAVE?

WHAT ABOUT THE PEOPLE IN GOTHAM WHO CAN'T AFFORD TO? OR, AS SURPRISING AS IT MIGHT BE, DON'T ***WANT*** TO?

THIS IS MY HOME. IT WAS MY PARENTS' HOME. AND IT'S YOURS, TOO.

YOU'RE PROBABLY RIGHT THERE.

I'M NOT SAYING HELPING GOTHAM HASN'T GOTTEN HARDER. WITHOUT PEOPLE LIKE JESSICA OR EVEN HARVEY, IT WILL.

BUT THERE ARE ***OTHERS*** WHO CAN HELP, ALFRED.

"OUTSIDERS" LIKE THE CROC AND THE CAT.

YES. WE ONLY HAVE TO FIND THEM.

"SOME WILL WANT TO JOIN US BECAUSE OF THEIR OWN LOSS."

THE KID SAYS A ***CLOWN*** KILLED HIS ***PARENTS***, CUT THE ***WIRES*** AND THEY ***FELL***.

A ***CLOWN*** KILLED ***"THE FLYING GRAYSONS"***?

"SOME TO PROTECT THEIR FAMILIES."

BARBARA!

HI, DAD!

IT'S SO GOOD TO BE HOME.

I'M ***DYING*** TO HEAR MORE ABOUT ***THE BATMAN!***

"SOME TO HELP THEMSELVES."

SHOULD'VE JUST HANDED OVER THE MONEY, RAGMAN!

"BUT NO MATTER THE REASON.."

"...THEY'LL GIVE EVERYTHING THEY HAVE TO GOTHAM.

"AND THE *OUTSIDERS* ARE ONLY THE START, ALFRED."

"WE WON'T ABANDON THOSE WHO ARE *SICK* AND NEED HELP. THE *GOTHAM MENTAL HOSPITAL* ISN'T THE ANSWER...

"THEY NEED A *BETTER* PLACE. ONE THAT WILL HELP THEM FIND PEACE.

"PEACE THAT MY FAMILY COULDN'T FIND.

"THAT MY MOTHER COULDN'T FIND."

WELCOME TO ARKHAM ASYLUM

WHERE GOOD CAN BE FOUND IN EVERYONE

DENT, JESSICA

"WE'RE NOT GOING TO GIVE UP ON THEM.

HELLO, JESSICA.

"WE'RE GOING TO HELP EVERYONE WE CAN..

CCCF

"...NO MATTER *WHO* THEY *ARE*."

PEFT PEFT PEFT

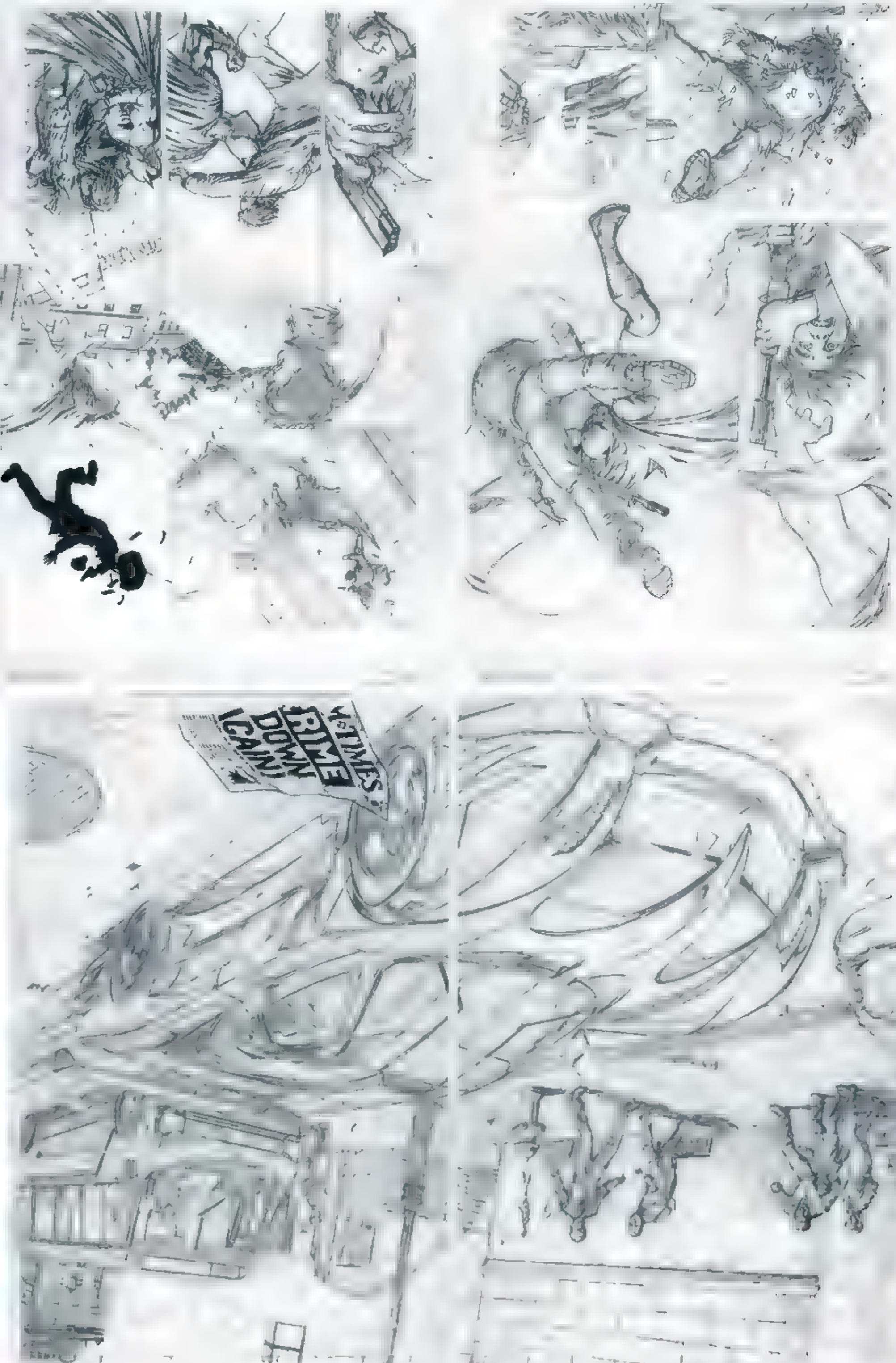
THEY CALL YOU *THE TOYMAN* BECAUSE YOU MAKE TOYS.

I NEED SOME TO KILL A *LOT* OF *CHILDREN*. AND THEIR *PETS*.

WHO *ARE* YOU?

I'M NOBODY.
END

BATMAN: EARTH ONE VOLUME 3 PENCILS BY GARY FRANK


TIMES
CRIME
DOWN
CAN'T

GEOFF JOHNS is an award-winning screenwriter and producer and is one of the most successful comic book writers of his time. He has written dozens of *New York Times* bestselling graphic novels, including some of the most recognized and highly acclaimed stories featuring Superman and the Justice League. He has also reinvented lesser-known characters with great commercial and critical success. Under his Mad Ghost Productions banner, Johns is currently in various stages of production on an extensive list of projects in television and film. Among his projects, he wrote and produced *Stargirl* for CW and he is writing the anticipated *Green Lantern Corps* feature. He also produced the second installment of the Wonder Woman film franchise, *Wonder Woman 1984*, which he co-wrote with director Patty Jenkins. On the comic book side, he developed the commercial and critical hit *Doomsday Clock*.

GARY FRANK, a native of Bristol, England, began his comics career working on various titles for Marvel UK before entering the American comics scene as the penciller on Marvel's *Incredible Hulk*. Frank then came to DC Comics, where he was the original artist on *Birds of Prey* and pencilled the adventures of Supergirl. He has also worked on WildStorm's *Gen13* as well as his creator-owned series *Kin*. Frank, along with writer Geoff Johns, has worked on the bestselling titles *Superman: Brainiac*, *Superman and the Legion of Super-Heroes*, and *Shazam!*, as well as the landmark issue *DC Universe: Rebirth* #1.

Based in Southern California, **JON SIBAL** started his professional inking career back in the early 1990s with Image Comics, then moved on to Marvel Comics and now DC Comics, adapting his tracing skills, oops, I mean his inks to best suit the individual penciller's style. He has been working with Geoff Johns and Gary Frank like a dream team producing award-winning Superman and Batman titles. On any given night, he can be seen sliding from his drawing table to his computer desk juggling between inking and creating 3D automotive renderings for builders, manufacturers, and race teams. His passion for art, whether it be in comic books or in the automotive industry, keeps him creative and feeling really old.

BRAD ANDERSON, originally from Kenora, Ontario, began his comics career after attending the Kubert School in 1996. Shortly after returning to Canada, he began painting comics at Digital Chameleon, where he cut his teeth on some of the top comics characters in the business. After leaving his position as art director, he began independently working on *Star Wars: Legacy* at Dark Horse, *Catwoman* at DC, and *Ultimate Hawkeye* at Marvel. Over his more than 22 years in the business, he's worked on such prominent titles as *Justice League*, *Doomsday Clock*, and *Dark Knight III: The Master Race* with Frank Miller, among many others.

ROB LEIGH is a graduate of the Kubert School. His lettering first received critical notice in 1972, when he was sent home with a note for writing a four-letter word on the blackboard of Miss Tuschmann's second-grade class. An avid outdoorsman, when not at his computer lettering, Leigh can be found wandering his natural habitat: the woods, water, and mountains.

"For the first time in a long time, you can see Batman's eyes. That may seem like a minor change. It's not. Johns and Frank know that the real appeal of Batman is what hides within him. Now they're letting us take a brand new, breathtaking peek. . . inside and out."
—**Brad Meltzer**, *New York Times* bestselling novelist and writer of *Identity Crisis*

"Geoff Johns and Gary Frank's *Batman: Earth One* reminds us of Batman's place not only in the pantheon of superheroes, but in the pantheon of all American literary characters. Their graphic novel renders Batman as novel-of-education; hard-boiled procedural; revenge tale and love story, metaphysics and myth. It's a hell of a read."
—**Chris Terrio**, Screenwriter of *Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice* and *Argo*

"Not since the seminal *Batman: Year One* have we gotten such a thoroughly fresh take on this story."
—**IGN**

"We won't abandon those who are sick and need help."

Bruce Wayne battles the toxicity of Gotham City and his own family history as he forges a path for himself as Batman. Up against the horrors of his home and villains like the Riddler and Two-Face, Batman's journey is more dangerous than ever before.

Superstar writer Geoff Johns and artist Gary Frank imagine a new mythology for the Dark Knight, developing a fresh take on the brooding hero in this original graphic novel from DC Comics.

Includes the entirety of *Batman: Earth One*.

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